MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 MARCH 1982

West Bank, Gaza Situation

Gaza Incident -- An IDF master sergeant was killed and three Israeli soldiers and three Gaza residents were injured when two masked persons threw a handgrenade at an Israeli military car, Jerusalem radio reported. Security forces have begun searching for the attackers. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has claimed responsibility for the incident, according to Monte Carlo radio.

Mayors Dismissal -- Dismissed Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah said the Palestinians have a right to reject and fight against the Civilian Administration because it is illegal and viewed by the inhabitants as a racist, hostile element, ITIM reported. Like ash-Shak'ah, Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf also rejected the dismissal order and announced that he still regards himself as the town's elected mayor, Jerusalem radio reported. It also said Ramallah's Municipal Council decided not to recognize the removal order and reiterated its refusal to cooperate with the Civilian Administration.

According to Jerusalem radio's Arabic service, the dismissed mayors not only refused to cooperate with the Civilian Administration and resorted to provocation and instigation against it, but also pressured other mayors to be provocative and instigative.

Arab Reaction -- Branding the dismissal of the two West Bank mayors as the "epitome of fascist, racist repression," a PLO Executive Committee statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said the Palestinians will continue the general strike, boycotting the enemy's institutions and stepping up various forms of struggle. The PLO spokesman in Bonn said his organization had been holding back in the interest of the search for a comprehensive peace, but now the PLO will no longer passively observe, the West German Agency DPA reported.

The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee called the dismissal of the Nabulus and Ramallah mayors a new Israeli "crime against legality," Amman radio reported. The committee decided to form a standing working committee to follow developments in the occupied homeland and supervise implementation of resolutions backing the uprising in the territories, the radio said.

Since the West Bank incidents have revealed the "iron fist" of the Israeli authorities, a role awaits the Israeli moderates who might be interested in rectifying th ir country's position, a Cairo AL-AHRAM editorial reported by MENA opined. Noting that this role requires getting closer to the Palestinians through understanding and dialogue, the paper also called on the Palestinians to try to get through to the Israeli man in the street via a calm and effective discussion, thus widening the base of the moderates who could exert pressure inside Israel.

The Saudi kingdom strongly denounced the "Zionist entity's acts of oppression and violence" and asked peace-loving nations to intervene, SAP reported.

In a cable carried by Damascus radio, the speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly asked the UN Security Council to adopt effective measures to force Israel to withdraw from the territories.

Israel

Labor Party Plans -- Labor Party sources implied that they might introduce another no-confidence motion next week over the government's handling of the West Bank, Jerusalem radio's English service reported.

Shamir Remarks -- The PLO is struggling against the autonomy plan for fear that its implementation will render the organization helpless, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir opined

in a discussion with visiting French parliamentarians ITIM reported. Despite the fact that by "murderous acts" the PLO obtained strong positions for its supporters during the 1976 elections in Judaea and Samaria, Israel believes that upon implementation of the autonomy, important Arab elements in the territories will join it, Shamir said.

Begin Interview -- Prime Minister Meanhem Begin said in a 24 March interview with MA'ARIV that elections will be held within 12 to 18 months. He expressed confidence that the Likud will receive 52 to 55 seats and will be able to form a stable government with the same partners. Even if the government cannot in the meantime obtain a majority for its budget, this will not cause it to fall, Begin said, but such a situation would be unhealthy and therefore early elections are necessary. Dismissing as totally unfounded MK Hayim Druckman's idea that he could stop the Sinai withdrawal by toppling the government, Begin reiterated that Israel will fulfill all its commitments.

Yamit Situation -- IDF soldiers and policemen broke open Yamit's gates after their closure by members of the Movement To Stop the Sinai Withdrawal, according to Jerusalem radio. The soldiers tore down the fence around Yamit and detained withdrawal opponents, who put up passive resistance. The commander of the Southern Command stated that the soldiers will remain in Yamit, occupy vacant houses and prevent withdrawal opponents from entering them, the radio said.

Relations With Egypt -- Protesting Egypt's UN ambassador's remarks at the 24 March Security Council debate on the situation in the territories, Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche told the Egyptian ambassador to Israel that the PLO is responsible for the loss of life in the territories by inciting the inhabitants out of fear of losing its influence, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, the Joint Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee concluded its meetings in Beersheba after drawing up a plan of action for completing the Sinai withdrawal, Cairo radio reported.

Lebanon

A group of pro-Iranian Iraqi Muslim commandos blew up the Iraqi oil pipeline in the Al-'Abdah area, near the Al-'Arqah River Basin, according to reports from the Voice of Lebanon and clandestine Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution radios.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA announced that Iraqi forces began a large offensive in the Shush-Dezful area, killing over 4,000 Iranians. Scores of enemy positions fell into Iraqi hands on 25 March, a war correspondent cited by INA wrote. Since 21 March, 15,998 Iranians have been killed, 140 enemy tanks destroyed, 58 tanks captured intact and 2 fighter aircraft and 2 helicopters downed, according to an Iraqi communique carried by INA. Iraq suffered 449 dead and lost 59 tanks and 2 fighter planes during the same period, the communique added.

The Iraqi counteroffensive has been foiled, Tehran radio claimed. A communique carried by the radio said Iranian forces were consolidating and stabilizing their positions. It added that an Iranian fighter aircraft shot down a MiG-23 southwest of Ahvaz, raising to 9 the total of Iraqi aircraft downed in the last 4 days. The number of prisoners recently transferred to Tehran has reached 4,697, the communique noted. Jordanian, Egyptian and Sudanese nationals have been observed among the prisoners, according to Tehran radio report citing IRNA. The bodies of 15 Tunisians killed in the fighting have been transferred home, the same report said.

Khamene'i Remarks -- Iran is not planning to enter Iraqi soil after expelling enemy troops from the country, and despite the fact that it is in a position of strength, Iran will accept any just and logical peace, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said at a press conference reported by Tehran radio.

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PLO ISSUES STATEMENT ON UPRISING IN W. BANK

JN2517590 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a meeting under Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] with the participation of the secretaries general of the Palestinian revolution groups to discuss developments in the grave situation in the occupied homeland. At the end of the meeting, an important statement was issued, recorded as follows:

[Begin recording] Statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee and the secretaries general of the Palestinian revolution groups:

Our great people, with all their forces and groups throughout the occupied homeland, continue to confront the Zionist enemy's arbitrary measures regardless of sacrifices. Our people are relentlessly and unwaveringly continuing their open general strike and all-out uprising in defense of their fate and the cause of the beloved homeland.

The Zionist enemy is currently resorting to completing its scheme by striking at national institutions and by imposing the civilian administration plan, preparatory to realizing its objectives in peddling the autonomy plot and in ensuring an endless occupation. The enemy's step dismissing Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah and Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf is the epitome of fascist racist repression. The enemy imagines that through this kind of repression it can wreck the unified will of our people and their solid rallying around their national leadership and institutions which depended and continue to depend on the people's confidence and will and on their commitment to the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative, and to the objectives of our national struggle.

Bassam ash-Shak'ah, Karim Khalaf and Ibrahim at-Tawil, along with the other heads of the Municipal Councils and bodies throughout our occupied homeland, represent the determination of the whole people through their united stand in rejecting the civilian administration and the decisions of dismissal. These dismissal decisions by the Zionist enemy will not rescue this scheme nor will they enable Begin's government to regain its prestige after it has been dragged in the dust in the streets of the West Bank, Gaza and Galilee, having become involved in a political predicament which has no solution.

The battle which is now raging in the occupied land is entering a crucial phase and our people realize that their victory in this battle will abort the Israeli plan disclosed by the enemy leaders which aims at liquidating national institutions and striking at the people rallying around it preparatory to imposing the will of occupation and to denying the inalienable national rights of our people, including their right to return, determine their future and set up their own independent state on their national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital.

The defeat of the enemy in this battle will bring closer the day of decisive victory. Hence, our entire people are now waging the current battle with all their forces by continuing their open general strike, boycotting the enemy's institutions and stepping up various forms of struggle. Our people are confident of their steadfastness in this confrontation no matter how long it goes on irrespective of sacrifices.

The blood of the martyrs and wounded who fell in the streets and squares of the occupied land is a glorious expression of the people's heroism and their bold confrontation of the tanks and troops of the racist invaders. Our people are shouting in unison: They shall not pass.

Our great people in the occupied land: The entire world is following with admiration your mighty uprising which has openly exposed the fascism and racism of the Zionist entity and its U.S. protectors. This uprising has proven that the defenseless unified masses under the PLO and its national objectives are stronger than all the U.S.-Zionist collusion, and that oppression and terrorism will only make the masses more determined to continue the uprising and to challenge Zionist decisions and emaciated schemes.

The PLO, at a time when our people are waging the battle of national fate, asserts that the criteria of loyalty to the cause of Palestine, the central issue of the Arab nation, is now defined by the extent of responsibility the Arab governments, parties and popular organizations are shouldering in solidarity with the explosive struggle inside the occupied homeland. We call for the broadest popular and official move in the Arab homeland and on the international level to support the struggle of our people in occupied Palestine and the Golan, to condemn the U.S. imperialist collusion with the Zionist occupation and to call on world governments and states to adopt frank stands condemning the Zionist fascist oppression and to take measures that would curb the Zionist entity and foil its objectives.

The PLO Executive Committee, while continuing to shoulder its responsibilities by moving on all the various levels under these delicate and critical circumstances, has adopted several decisions and measures to ensure wide support for the masses' uprising and open strike and to achieve the broadest Arab and international support for this struggle. Glory to our people in the occupied land; glory to our struggle for the sake of achieving our just and national objectives; all glory to the masses which are carrying out the uprising.

[Signed] The PLO Executive Committee and the secretaries general of the Palestinian revolution groups [end recording]

DFLP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR GAZA ATTACK

JN252054 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Today, a handgrenade was hurled at an Israeli patrol in the Gaza Strip, killing an Israeli soldier and wounding three others. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has claimed responsibility for this operation.

PLO'S YAHYA BRIEFS EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS ON W. BANK

JN252000 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Brother Abu Yahya, director of European affairs in the PLO Political Department, today met with the Belgian ambassador to Lebanon in his capacity as doyen of European diplomats in Lebanon. Abu Yahya also received the British and Canadian charges d'affaires. Abu Yahya informed the diplomats of the developments in the explosive situation in the occupied territory and the savage practices of Zionist soldiers and settlers against the Palestinian masses, as well as Israel's repressive decisions against the municipalities.

QADDUMI BRIEFS SOCIALIST BLOC ENVOYS ON SITUATIO..

JN251742 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] PLO Political Department head Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] this morning received the ambassadors of the socialist bloc countries in Beirut. Abu al-Lutf reviewed with them the developments of the popular uprising of our people inside the occupied territory since the closure of Bi'r Zayt University on 16 February. He asked the heads of the socialist bloc diplomatic missions to convey the true nature of the situation to their countries and governments and to call for solidarity, support and backing for our people in their uprising. During the meeting, the ambassadors praised the popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They stressed that they would convey the true picture of the situation to their governments.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC SECRETARY CLARIFIES STATEMENT ON DEMOCRACY

GF260758 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 24 Mar 82 pp 1, 18

[Text] Commenting on the Kuwaiti National Assembly's vote, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah has told the AL-ANBA' correspondent in Riyadh: It greatly surprised me to learn about the reaction of the venerable Kuwaiti National Assembly on the television debate between Dr Muhammad ar-Rumayhi and myself. I quickly express my deep regret over the misunderstanding that followed this debate. It is an indisputable fact that I deeply respect the democratic institutions in Kuwait and believe that they are honorable. While emphasizing this, I would like to point out that when Dr ar-Rumayhi said there are some academicians and theoreticians who believe that all Gulf issues will be resolved if the Gulf adopts the Western liberal democratic system, I said this belief is a kind of luxury. That is all I said. I was not referring to the Kuwaiti National Assembly, Kuwait's democratic institutions or anything of the kind. I did not expect my statement to be misunderstood. I acted with good intentions. Anything else is mere assumption.

KUWAIT

MINISTER REACTS TO REAGAN REMARKS ON OPEC

GF231210 Doha QNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Mar (QNA) -- 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs and acting foreign minister, said the international oil market is free and it is up to each country to determine the source from which it will buy its oil and the prices it deems suitable.

This came in a statement 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn made to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' commenting on a recent statement by U.S. President Ronald Reagan in which he said the United States no longer depends on OPEC as much as it used to.

In his statement, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said: "The decisions of the recent OPEC conference ensure the welfare of OPEC and the welfare of consuming countries as well, because despite differences, OPEC will always see to the world's energy needs.

The Kuwaiti minister of state continued: "We consider the recent OPEC conference in Vienna to have been the most successful meeting ever; cooperation, consolidation, teamwork and concern for the public welfare of the OPEC countries prevailed." In addition, he said the OPEC member countries are concerned with maintaining the current moderate prices, responding to the international oil demand and maintaining OPEC unity.

SAUDI ARABIA

COURT SOURCE CONDEMNS VIOLENCE IN WEST BANK

LD260016 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2110 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Mar (SPA) -- The kingdom today strongly denounced the acts of oppression and violence and the barbarous behavior of the Zionist entity against Palestinian Arab people in the West Bank. The kingdom reaffirmed its support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people against the brutal aggression. It appealed to the United Nations to debate this issue in a positive manner and shoulder its full responsibilities by exposing the racist intentions of the Zionists everywhere.

This was said in a statement by an authoritative source at the royal court who was commenting on the oppressive measures. The source said: We denounce this irresponsible and colonial behavior, which knows no logic except the logic of aggression. The time has come for international conscience and the peace-loving nations to intervene and put an end to these wanton acts that our noble Palestinian people have endured throughout the years of detested colonization. We stand body and soul alongside our brothers. The source saluted the Palestinian people's struggle, which is a vivid example of honest struggle and true action to recover their lands and safeguard their fundamental human rights, after so many of them have been made homeless and so many others have been unlawfully killed.

MOROCCO'S BOUCETTA ARRIVES IN JIDDA 23 MAR

LD231544 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1455 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Jidda, 23 Mar (SPA) -- Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta arrived here this afternoon on a visit to the kingdom during which he will convey a message from His Majesty King Hassan to his brother, His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. He was welcomed upon arrival at the airport by Salim Sunbul, head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry; an official of the Royal Protocol Department; and the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Jidda.

Received by King Khalid

GF242004 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta in his office in Al-Ma'thar at 1115 today. The Moroccan minister, who was accompanied by Mohamed Bensouda, the Moroccan king's adviser, delivered a message to King Khalid from King Hassan II. The meeting was attended by Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Talks With Prince Sa'ud

LD241300 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 24 Mar (SPA) -- His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, held a meeting at noon today with M'hamed Boucetta, Morocco's foreign minister. The meeting was attended by M'hamed Bensudah, adviser to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco.

Arab-Islamic and international issues of mutual interest and bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting.

After the meeting, M'hamed Boucetta told SPA that discussion during the meeting with His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal dealt with Arab issues and preparations for convening the coming Arab summit. Discussion also dealt with a number of Islamic issues of interest to the Islamic world in addition to bilateral relations in various spheres.

Boucetta mentioned that he acquainted Prince Sa'ud with the latest developments within the OAU regarding Western Sahara. He announced that starting tomorrow, his country will begin moves in all the African capitals to explain Morocco's point of view regarding recent developments in Western Sahara.

Boucetta noted that the message he handed to King Khalid from his brother, King Hassan II of Morocco, is connected with bilateral relations.

SAUDI-PHILIPPINES JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

LD251500 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1212 GMT 25 Mar 82

["Text of Saudi-Philippines Joint Communique" -- SPA Headline]

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Mar (SPA) -- At the invitation of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, his excellency the president of the Republic of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos, and his wife paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia 21-23 March 1982.

His Excellency President Marcos conducted talks with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Taking part in the talks on the Saudi side were:

1. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister.
2. His Royal Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, commander of the national guard and second deputy prime minister.
3. His Royal Highness Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general.
4. Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral affairs.
5. Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy
6. Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Ibrahim al'Anqari.
7. Information Minister Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani.
8. Education Minister 'Abd al-Aziz al-Khuwaytir.
9. Health Minister Husayn al-Jaza'iri.
10. Minister of Agriculture and Water 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Shaykh.
11. Commerce Minister Sulayman as-Sulayyim.
12. Communications Minister Husayn al-Mansuri.
13. Planning Minister Hisham Nazir.
14. Ambassador 'Abbas Faiq Ghazzawi, head of the Asia and Africa desk at the Foreign Ministry.
15. Ambassador Fwazi Shabukshi, ambassador to the Philippines.

Taking part on the Philippines side were:

1. Mrs Imelda Marcos, first lady of the Philippines.
2. Miss Imee Marcos.
3. Minister of Industry and Trade Roberto Ongpin.
4. Agriculture Minister Arturo Tanco.
5. Minister of Labor and Employment Blas Ople
6. Minister of Education and Culture Onofre Corpuz
7. Minister of Energy Geronimo Velasco
8. Minister of Health Jesus Azurin
9. Minister of Public Works Jesus Hipolito
10. Minister of Planning Placido Mapa
11. Minister of Muslim Affairs Romulo Espaldon
12. Minister of Public Information Gregorio Gendana
13. Presidential Assistant (Juan Tuvera)
14. Foreign Ministry Under Secretary (Boachiko Casro)
15. Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza
16. Central Bank Governor (J. Milaya).

The talks were conducted in a cordial atmosphere. They discussed bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East, the Gulf and Southeast Asia and international affairs of common interest.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations, particularly in the field of economic and cultural cooperation. The two sides expressed their belief that the visit has helped to develop bilateral relations and affirmed their determination to strengthen them in the areas of common interest. The two sides reviewed current conditions in their respective regions and reaffirmed their adherence to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, particularly those pertaining to respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of other countries, noninterference in internal affairs and the nonuse of force or the threat of force in international relations.

The two sides expressed special interest in the Middle East situation and stressed the need for the realization of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East for preserving stability in the region and consolidating world peace. They noted that to achieve this it is imperative that Israel withdraw from all Arab territories that were occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and that it recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the right to set up their own independent state. They reasserted that the Palestinian issue is the core of the Middle East problem and that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In this respect, President Marcos expressed full support for the Arab peace plan that was announced by Saudi Arabia in August 1981. It is a basic step toward the realization of a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem.

The two sides condemned Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, considering such acts as contrary to international law and norms and UN resolutions. They appealed to the international community to take the necessary measures to force Israel to abandon this course. The two sides also condemned Israeli aggression on the sovereignty, safety and independence of Lebanon. President Marcos paid tribute to the formation of the GCC. He noted that it is an important step toward consolidating constant prosperity and stability in the Gulf region. The two sides expressed the conviction that security of the Gulf is the responsibility of its own states, without interference from other elements.

The two sides expressed concern over the continuation of tension in Southeast Asia, a situation that contributes to disturbing stability and harming the development and growth of the states of the region. The kingdom expressed support for the efforts by ASEAN to reach a peaceful solution to the Kampuchea problem in accordance with UN resolutions. The two sides condemned Soviet interference in Afghanistan. They demanded the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the opportunity for the Afghan people to choose their own regime and for Afghan refugees to return home with dignity and honor. They called on all states to respect the sovereignty of Afghanistan, its territorial integrity, its political independence, its Islamic character and its policy of nonalignment.

The Philippines side explained internal developments in the country, including the situation in the south. President Ferdinand Marcos confirmed his government's intention to implement the Tripoli agreement and resolve its problems within the context of the sovereignty of the Philippines and its territorial integrity. In this context, the Philippines side expressed its appreciation and gratitude to the Islamic Conference Organization for its sincere efforts and continuing consultations to reach a peaceful and just settlement of the southern Philippines problem.

From the premise of the desire of the president of the Philippines to give an impetus to operations to achieve peace in the south, his excellency confirmed that elections will be held in the 9th and 12th districts in April 1983, and that measures will be taken to amalgamate the two districts' executive councils into one regional council as a basic step toward implementation of the Tripoli agreement.

His Majesty King Khalid explained to his excellency the guest that he, as head of the Islamic summit, expresses the interest of the Islamic summit and the Islamic Conference Organization in finding the desired solution to the problem of Muslims in the southern Philippines. His majesty also confirmed that this solution should be within the context of the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of the Philippines and the clear provisions of the Tripoli agreement.

President Ferdinand Marcos confirmed his government's adherence to preserving Islamic heritage, and announced the start of work on organizing Shari'ah courts in the Philippines and his expectation of help from the kingdom in this endeavor. This was welcomed with satisfaction by the Saudi side, which promised to study this request and contribute to its achievement.

The two sides expressed the need to take effective measures for the realization of a new, more just international economic system in order to ensure stability and prosperity for all states. They reaffirmed the significance of an early commencement of international negotiations within the UN framework and in other international spheres. They expressed their conviction that the developing states should work toward consolidating technical and economic cooperation between them. In this connection the Philippines side expressed its admiration and appreciation for the understanding of the international economic problem by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and for the constructive role it played in helping to realize international economic stability and growth.

To help consolidate the bonds of fruitful cooperation, the two sides have agreed to study the aspects of development between the two countries in various spheres as a first step to the signing of joint agreements, particularly an agreement on economic cooperation. The two sides have agreed to take the necessary measures for the speedy conclusion of such an agreement.

Out of consideration for friendly Saudi-Philippines relations, His Excellency President Ferdinand Marcos informed His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz that his government has allocated a plot of land in Manilla for the construction of an Islamic center and mosque. His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz expressed his thanks and gratitude for this initiative by the Philippines government.

His Excellency President Ferdinand Marcos and Mrs Marcos expressed their gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality they and members of their delegation received during their visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His excellency has addressed an official invitation to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-Aziz and to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister, to visit the Philippines.

Both his majesty and his royal highness expressed their thanks, and accepted the invitation. The date will be arranged in due course.

UAE

IRAN'S KHALKHALI ARRIVES ON 3-DAY VISIT

GF261045 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 26 Mar 82 p 20

[Text] Ayatollah Khalkhali, who arrived in Dubai yesterday on a three-day visit, said he did not see an early end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Speaking at a press conference last night, he said the only way to make peace was for Iraq to withdraw from occupied territory.

Asked where Iran obtained arms, he said ammunition was coming from its own factory, but arms were obtained from other sources and that was costly because of the economic sanctions imposed on Iran by many countries.

He said Iran had very friendly relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Palestinian people.

"After the war we will try our best to move our troops and our people to the occupied lands in Palestine and free the oppressed people," the ayatollah said.

Ayatollah Khalkhali was recently in Pakistan at the invitation of the government to attend the Pakistan Day celebrations, and called in at Dubai on his way home.

Ayatollah Khalkhali said that he was now a representative in the Iranian Cabinet and had no judicial role. He was earlier head of Iran's revolutionary courts.

Asked how much he achieved in his judicial role he replied that all orders he issued as head of the court were in accordance with Islam.

About the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council, the Ayatollah said Iran welcomed countries combining for the sake of development although his country itself was not interested in the regional organisation.

On internal developments in Iran, Ayatollah Khalkhali said that in any revolution difficulties were created both at home and outside the country. But the Iranian government had done a lot to control these problems.

The past three years had seen a lot of development in road building, extending the electricity network and in other areas. A lot had also been done to develop agriculture and it was hoped to be able to feed 70 per cent of the population when more had been achieved.

PDRY

CPSU DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT, DEPARTS 24 MAR

EA250030 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpt] A CPSU delegation headed by Comrade [name indistinct], deputy secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, left Aden today at the end of a several-day visit to Democratic Yemen.

Comrade [name indistinct], in a statement to the Aden News Agency, desctibed his visit to our country as successful and extremely fruitful. He said that his visit would contribute to the further strengthening and deepening of bilateral relations. He expressed his gratification at his meeting with the brother secretary general and the party officials with whom he reviewed issues connected with strengthening and developing bilateral relations between the YSP and CPSU. He also praised the achievements of Democratic Yemen in all fields with which he was acquainted during his visit to our country.

MILITARY COMMITTEE DRAWS UP WITHDRAWAL PLAN

NC252156 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The Joint Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee today concluded its meetings, which were held this week in Beersheba, Israel. A plan of action for completing the Israeli withdrawal from all of the Sinai on 25 April was drawn up. A timetable was also drawn up for the measures that are to be taken by the two sides preparatory to the process of turning over the land, installations and utilities. All Israeli military personnel and civilians will begin evacuating the area of Sharm ash-Shaykh this week and will continue to do so until mid-April, when Egyptian teams will start to take over the equipment, buildings and installations with the knowledge of the various ministries.

Convoys carrying foodstuffs and other commodities will start entering the area at the beginning of April. The fifth group of Egyptian technicians, together with the necessary equipment, will enter airports in the area on 29 March, to participate in operating these airports as well as the rest of the tourist and agricultural installations in Ra's an-Naqb, Ra's Nasrani, an-Nuwaybi, Dhahab and Sharm ash-Shaykh.

The military committee's agenda also included a discussion of subjects related to programs for the arrival of the multinational forces, bringing them up to full strength and deploying them so they will be able to assume their task following Israeli withdrawal in accordance with the peace treaty. The method of liaison with these forces by the two sides was also discussed.

The joint military committee will remain in a state of constant session to follow up the implementation of all the steps and arrangements agreed upon.

AL-AHRAM URGES DIALOGUE BETWEEN MODERATES

NC252334 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2253 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) -- The newspaper AL-AHRAM has called on the Palestinian people to attempt to get through to the Israeli man in the street through a calm and effective discussion and dialogue in order to widen the base of the moderates, who can constitute a pressure group inside Israel.

In its editorial to be published on Friday, the newspaper refers to the split in Israeli public opinion represented by the equal number of votes the government and the opposition received when the Israeli Knesset voted on the motion of no confidence in the Begin government because of the incidents in the West Bank. The paper says Begin's government has never been subjected to such parliamentary embarrassment.

The paper goes on to say that if it is clear that the West Bank incidents, which have been escalated by the Israeli authorities -- who have thus revealed their real iron fist -- have put the issue in its true perspective, then there is a role awaiting the Israeli moderates, who might be interested in rectifying the position of their country and government.

The paper says this role requires that they get closer to the Palestinian side through understanding and dialogue.

BORDER COMMITTEE TO MEET IN AL-'ARISH 30 MAR

NC251400 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) -- The Egyptian delegation to the normalization talks headed by Ambassador 'Ismat Rida, director of the Egyptian-Israeli Relations Department, returned to Cairo this afternoon following a 4-day visit to Israel. Following his arrival, Ambassador Rida said that a field committee has been formed to implement what had been agreed upon at the higher Egyptian-Israeli committee concerned with marking the border between the two countries in the Rafah area.

He said the committee will hold its first meeting in Al-'Arish this coming Tuesday, and that the location of the meetings, which will continue for 3 days, will alternate between Al-'Arish and Rafah.

SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC260850 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) -- Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani arrived in Cairo from Khartoum this morning for a few days visit to Egypt.

In a statement he made to MENA following his arrival, the Sudanese minister said he is carrying a message from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri to President Husni Mubarak connected with the continuous consulations between the two presidents. Commenting on the current OAU crisis, Mirghani said: We have contacted the chairman of the current OAU session and expressed our view that it is necessary to convene an extraordinary conference of the organization to safeguard its unity and rectify the error made. Commenting on the present situation between Sudan and Libya, the minister said: There has been no change in the situation.

Mirghani was welcomed by Ambassador Hasan Nayil, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary, and 'Abd ar-Rahman Salman, Sudanese ambassador in Cairo.

NO EGYPTIAN OBSERVER FOR EL SALVADOR ELECTIONS

NC250721 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0648 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) -- In its edition to be published on Friday, the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR reports that Egypt has apologized for not sending an observer to El Salvador to follow up the elections to be held there at the end of this month. The magazine notes that Egypt has based its apology on three factors:

1. Egypt belongs to the Nonaligned Movement, and the elections to be held in El Salvador do not enjoy the support of Western European states let alone nonaligned states.
2. The rebels' growing resistance might threaten the safety of the Egyptian observer.
3. In spite of the firm relations between Egypt and the United States, Egypt defines its move on the basis of its original affiliation with the nonaligned states.

SECURITY AUTHORITIES ARREST EXTREMISTS IN CAIRO

NC250717 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0646 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) -- In its edition to be published on Friday, the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR reports that state security authorities have arrested some extremist persons in several quarters in Cairo. The magazine says these persons were conducting clandestine terrorist activities while the state security authorities have been observing their activities since they started to collect arms from various sources working for them. The magazine notes that this organization belongs to the society of repudiation and renunciation [takfir].

MONDAY MORNING INTERVIEWS MOHAMMAD HAYKAL

NC241238 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 22-28 Mar 82 pp 36-44

[By Mona as-Said]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak would not visit Israel, Mohammad Hasanayn Haykal told me.

He know for a fact, he said, that the Egyptian president had sent assurances to a number of Arab leaders that he would not visit the Jewish state.

But the cancellation of the visit would not affect the Sinai withdrawal schedule: Israel would evacuate the rest of Sinai by April 26 -- not merely because the Israelis were committed under the Camp David agreements, but mainly because the Americans wanted the withdrawal to go through, he said.

The Americans, he explained, were "dying" to have military presence in Sharm ash-Shaykh. They were dreaming of making their contribution to the Sinai Multi-National Force and Observers (MFO) a forward post for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force.

The former editor of Egypt's "AL-AHRAM," close confident of the late President Gamal 'Abd an-Nasir, was talking to me in his Cairo office last weekend -- six months after the late President Anwar as-Sadat threw him in jail, four months after Mubarak released him.

He had lost some weight in prison, I noticed, but none of his confidence. He spoke with relaxed assurance about the developments the Middle East would witness in the weeks, months and years ahead.

Israel, he said, would attack south Lebanon and annex the West Bank. The Americans were trying to prevail on Tel Aviv to put off any move until after the Sinai withdrawal, but whether the persuasion proved effective or not, the attack and the annexation were inevitable.

And when they occurred, neither Husni Mubarak nor any other Arab leader would do anything about them, he said, simply because, given the current balance of power, no Arab state was capable of doing anything.

After the Israeli withdrawal, there was no chance of the Egyptian-Israeli-American talks on Palestinian "autonomy" in the West Bank and Gaza taking off again. Mubarak had announced it publicly and underscored it in private messages to the Arabs: He would not give away anything on behalf of the Palestinians.

It was conceivable that the withdrawal would be followed by an Arab summit conference which would revive the peace plan of Saudi Crown Prince Fahd, amending it to bring it closer to the Soviet "international peace conference" proposal.

Egyptian-Israeli relations after April "have no future." Commercially, Israel has nothing to offer Egypt; its much trumpeted "technological miracle" was a myth. Historically and demographically, Egypt was part of Arab Asia and Israel was an alien body implanted in the area by the West. Geoghaphically, Israel was blocking Egypt's vital land bridge to Arab Asia. Those factors combined made an Egyptian-Israeli conflict inevitable -- even if the problem of the Palestinians did not exist.

An Egyptian-Arab reconciliation was also inevitable. In the long run, it was dictated by the "constants" of history and geography. In the short term, it was being imposed by expediencies: Saudi Arabia, always preferring to play a secondary role, and having failed to replace Egyptian leadership with a Syrian-Iraqi alliance or with the Gulf Cooperation Council, was anxious to bring Egypt back to the fold; Egypt, its economic problems mounting and the riches of the Gulf beckoning to it, was as anxious to return to the fold.

The presence of an Israeli ambassador in Cairo would complicate the process of Egyptian-Arab reconciliation, but it would not abort it, Haykal said. In fact, because Israel "cannot afford to have peace" and because it would always create obstacles and make mistakes, the Israelis "will create the dynamics and situations which will facilitate the return of Egypt to the Arab world."

"I don't talk for Mubarak," Haykal said -- a statement with which he was to punctuate the rest of our 90-minute conversation, "but I know for sure that he is not going to Israel. He will stay away not only from Jerusalem but from Israel. At one point, he was ready to go -- not because he was fond of histrionics like As-Sadat, who was ready to perform as soon as he saw a television camera, but because they were projecting the visit as a test of his future intentions.

"But then, in their usual vulgar manner, the Israelis made Jerusalem part of the test, and the dialogue that followed was almost audible worldwide: Mubarak said he could not go to Jerusalem; the Israelis said As-Sadat had gone to Jerusalem; he said that when As-Sadat went it was in the context of his initiative, and besides, the law which declared a unified Jerusalem Israel's 'eternal capital' had not been issued yet. Then, the Israelis carried their vulgarity to the point of issuing a unanimous council of ministers decision that if Mubarak did not agree to visit Jerusalem, his visit to Israel would be cancelled. That was when the man accepted the challenge. He will not go to Israel."

Haykal said that according to reliable information he had received from outside Egypt, Mubarak had officially told a number of "parties, including Arab parties," that he was not going to Israel. His position was explained in detail in letters to the Americans and "to some Arab parties."

I pointed out to him that official Egyptian statements which were being broadcast even as we talked indicated that the visit had been postponed, not cancelled.

"Mubarak refused to go to Jerusalem in this, the most difficult stage of his presidency -- the period preceding the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai," Mubarak said. "If he refuses to go now, he will refuse to go later -- unless the Jerusalem condition is dropped, which is highly unlikely."

Mubarak's refusal to go to Jerusalem might affect the peace process in the future, Haykal said, but it would not abort the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

"The Israelis will withdraw on April 25," he said. "Had the only reason for their withdrawal been their pledge to us in the Camp David agreements, I would have doubted that the withdrawal would take place on schedule, but it is not. Far more important than that commitment is their obligation to the United States."

"As you know, the Israeli withdrawal is not unconditional. It is conditional on the deployment of a strange international force in Sinai -- a mixture of troops from America, Europe and secondary states. The Americans are dying to have some sort of presence in Sharm ash-Shaykh. The force is not going to be merely a peace-keeping force; the Americans are probably dreaming about turning it into an advanced post for the Rapid Deployment Force. That is a distinct possibility which I do not rule out and which, if it occurred, would be a very dangerous development leading to undesirable complications. But that is another subject. The point is that Israel, pressed more by American interests than by its obligations according to Camp David, will withdraw."

But there is no doubt in Haykal's mind that Israel will extract a price for its withdrawal, and that the price will be a major attack on the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon and the annexation of the West Bank.

"The Americans are pressing the Israelis not to attack south Lebanon before April 25, and perhaps the Israelis will consider this request," he said, "but there is no doubt that they will attack the south and annex the West Bank. They have already paved the way with their creeping annexation of the West Bank, just as they did in the Golan. It will come."

And when it comes, what is President Mubarak likely to do?

"Why only Mubarak?" Haykal said. "Why don't you ask what any Arab state will do? The answer is that none of us will do anything, simply because we have allowed the balance of power to tip dangerously -- though not irreversibly -- to the other side. We have been in retreat since 1973. That year, Arab arms performed reasonably well in the October war, but our fighters were let down by our politicians. Our weapons were made impotent by our policies. Which is exactly the opposite of what happened in 1967, when the strategy was there but our arms were unable to match our political design."

The Israelis would attack the south and annex the West Bank, but they would not be able to prevent an Egyptian-Arab reconciliation, Haykal said.

Inter-Arab relations, he argued, were governed by "permanent factors" -- constants like geography, history, common culture.

The constants, he said, would ultimately and inevitably impose a set of rules -- a "grand strategy" on any nation or group of countries pulled together by geographical, historical and cultural bonds.

It was a historical, geographical and cultural fact that Egypt, far from being a part of Africa, was a part of Arab Asia. "From the days of the pharaohs to the days of An-Nasir, Egypt has existed in Africa but lived in Arab Asia. This face has imposed a grand strategy of ultimate unity on Egyptian-Arab relations -- a strategy which has found occasional expression in such major moves as the creation of the Arab League, the signing of the Arab Joint Defense Pact, the short-lived attempt at a Syrian-Egyptian union, and so on."

But below the grand-strategy level, Haykal said, there was the level of temporary "politics and policies" which were subject to the influence of variable factors.

"The variables that have produced the current conditions in the Arab world included regional variables -- like the creation of Israel and its gradual transformation into a bridgehead of the West on the shores of the Arab world; like the sudden flow of oil which entailed a shock to the existing regional balance of power.

"They include international variables like the shift from cold war to detente, which was itself a direct result of an international nuclear balance of power. In 1967, for instance, we reacted to the Israeli provocation and waged war under the illusion that we could expect the kind of help from the Soviets that they gave us in 1956. Our mistake was our failure to recognize the fact that the nuclear balance of power had pushed the world into a period of detente, and detente had imposed its rules on us without us being aware of them.

"Another variable that affected us was a personal one: The sudden death of An-Nasir and the rise of another man who, by nature, was ready to think the unthinkable and do the undoable. This man went to Jerusalem, crossing the frontiers of enmity, of wars, of realities, of history, of everything. Those who applauded him did so because his move served their interests, but had something comparable been done to them, they would never have accepted it. The Americans, for instance, were enraged by (former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt's visit to Moscow and his launching of his ostpolitik. They considered that move hostile to the interests of the Western alliance, but they applauded As-Sadat when he went even further than Brandt in Arab-Israeli terms."

But those variables, Haykal said, had created temporary conditions. Ultimately, the "constants," which were pulling towards Arab unity, would triumph.

"How can you defy geography, history, culture, accumulated interests that have been in common for 14 centuries or even longer in this part of the world? You cannot. What is happening now is the exception, and the rule will sooner or later impose itself. Egypt has no alternative but to return to the Arab world, and the Arab world has no alternative but to take Egypt back....

"When An-Nasir said Egypt had an Arab identity, all of us in Egypt said yes, and we followed him. But deep in our hearts, we had our doubts -- because of the isolation, because of the disillusionment which eventually forced us to revert to the past for any kind of false glory to help us escape from the present. As you in Lebanon took refuge in the Phoenicians, we in Egypt wanted to be identified with pharaonic history, forgetting over 14 centuries of common Arab history, common language, common security, common enemies; 14 centuries of mixing through commerce, migration and inter-marriage.

"Elsewhere, the Arabs were taken by oil money, by the prosperity of Beirut, and so on. We forgot elementary questions like 'who are we?' and 'what do we want' and 'who are our enemies and friends?'

"The agony we are all going through now is part punishment, which we richly deserve, part education, which we need, and part assertions for the future, which are important if we are to emerge from the transition period in which we are now living. Our return to each other is a fact that cannot be resisted."

The signs, Haykal said, have already begun to emerge, although they were not the kind of signs he had hoped to see.

"Take Saudi Arabia, for example. The Saudis, who feel that the area is threatened and are not happy with the balance of power around them, have always tried to play a secondary role. King 'Abd al-'Aziz played a secondary role behind King Faraq in the creation of the Arab league; King Saud played a secondary role behind An-Nasir in the battle against the Baghdad pact; King Faysal, with his oil embargo, played a secondary role behind As-Sadat in the October war.

"Then, suddenly, Egypt was taken from them by As-Sadat's theatrical visit to Jerusalem, and they found themselves alone in the area. For a time, they thought in terms of an alliance between Iraq and Syria, although they were afraid of what that alliance could entail. That didn't work. They tried to rely on Iraq alone, but they discovered that Iraq was not enough. So they went and formed the Gulf Cooperation Council -- but they still don't feel secure, because the danger is coming from within, from the social and cultural ferment which is taking place in an atmosphere of great changes, including what is happening in Iran and the Shi'ite awakening.

"So the Saudis want Egypt back for security reasons; they know Egypt can protect them, can do something for them.

"Egypt is meanwhile feeling the pressure of its economic problems. Where can we get new resources? From Saudi Arabia and the countries of the Arabian Peninsula. So Egypt wants to go back to the Arabs for that reason.

"For now, the pressure towards reconciliation is being generated by such limited interests and expediencies. Yet, even these limited interests are indicative, because the mutual need, the necessity dictated by the constants of our countries, is there behind them. In this case, expediency is expressing reality."

At this stage, Haykal said, "Egypt and many, many Arab parties are groping in the dark, searching for a way to return. In fact, a dialogue has started between Egypt and many Arab parties."

It started almost as soon as Mubarak was sworn in, when the new president ordered the withdrawal of Egyptian troops from the Libyan borders, signalling Egypt's rejection of hostilities with any Arab state. In his first speech, he stated clearly that there would be no more verbal campaigns against any Arab country, either, and all Egyptian broadcasts directed against this or that Arab state were halted. In addition, Mubarak ordered that the building of the Arab League in Egypt, which As-Sadat had handed over to the new African organization he had created, be vacated immediately. Access to the league files in the building, which As-Sadat had denied to all Arab states, was restored.

Mubarak's messages to the Arabs, Haykal said, started out as silent or indirect messages of that sort, but they soon developed into direct messages. His messages to "several Arab parties" assuring them that he would not visit Israel were one example. In addition, he said, "several parties in the Arab world told me frankly that they had received from Mubarak assertions pledging that he would not give away anything on behalf of the Palestinians. I can easily imagine that this message was passed on to the Palestinians themselves, either by Mubarak directly or by those who received it from him in the Arab world."

The Arabs, he added, had responded immediately and favorably to both the direct and indirect messages.

One of their earliest responses was what happened at the Fes Arab summit last November.

"Arab keenness to have Egypt return was the major factor behind what you might call the failure and what I call the success of that summit," Haykal said. "What happened at Fes? Those who had the Fahd Peace Plan, those who issued the invitation to the summit, wanted the return of Egypt, and they were afraid that other Arab states would come to the summit and try to block that return, or at least ask the major question of what should be done about Egypt before the Israeli withdrawal."

"There were many parties in the Arab world -- and I know what I am talking about -- who wanted Egypt to get the Sinai back and did not want any obstacles that might abort the Israeli withdrawal. Prince Fahd, for instance, when he met (U.S. Secretary of State) Alexander Haig in Spain made it very clear that he did not want obstacles created by Israel or any other party that might prevent the withdrawal. Other Arab parties were just as keen as Saudi Arabia to see Egypt get the Sinai back and wanted no one to rock the boat in the meantime. The collapse of the Fes summit was one sign of that."

Another sign was the cessation of much of the Arab rhetoric against Egypt.

A third was the stream of letters and messages Haykal himself has received since his release from prison last November.

"I have received messages from (PLO Chairman Yasir) 'Arafat, from King Husayn (of Jordan), from President Saddam (Husayn of Iraq) and from many other decision-makers in the Arab world. These started to come in two days after my release, and they continued during my visit to London (this month). In these direct messages, and in other indirect messages that I have received, many of the decision-makers of the Arab world stated clearly that they were all ready to facilitate the return of Egypt to the Arab world.

"Obviously, the return would have to come after a change in the present atmosphere, in the context of a certain effort to bridge the gap that has been created by Egypt's opting for a separate peace."

Commenting on a statement made to this magazine recently by Abu Iyad (Salah Khalaf), second-in-command to 'Arafat in the mainstream Palestinian organization, Fatah, who warned that Mubarak could be more dangerous than As-Sadat because he was trying to return to the Arab world carrying the Camp David accords with him, Haykal said:

"Among the Palestinians, Abu Iyad is probably my closest friend, although we have not met in many years. I like him. He is trustworthy and intelligent, and I know he is entitled to have his reservations, especially since Egypt's policy is not yet clear or open, because it is still under pressure.

"But when you are dealing in politics, you must test every option and try every opening. Here you have a new man. He must not be judged so quickly. He must be given a chance. I personally don't know the man, but he has all my good will.

Why? Because I believe it is our duty, all of us, to help him make the right choice. If, given the chance, he does not do what we hope he will do, then we will be justified in saying, sorry, we have tried and...."

Abu Iyad and all the Palestinians had more reason to give Mubarak a chance than any other Arabs, Haykal said, because Egypt was indispensable as the Palestinians' ally, for three reasons: It was the biggest and most powerful Arab country; it had absolutely no hold on the Palestinians and therefore could not hurt them; and it had a conflict with Israel which would exist whether the Palestinian problem existed or not.

He explained:

"Egypt is the only Arab country that cannot hurt the Palestinians. No Palestinian supply line passes through Egyptian territory. There is no Egyptian military control over any civilian or military Palestinian concentrations. Egypt does not give the PLO any funds, because it doesn't have any. So Egypt, with all its weight, can give the Palestinians unconditional support; it can give them but cannot take from them. Any other Arab country can exercise pressure on them by cutting off their lines of communication or their funds. Most Arab countries even have their own surrogate groups within the PLO; Egypt doesn't, any support the Palestinians get from Egypt would come with no strings attached -- and they are in dire need of that kind of support.

"Then there is the fact that Egypt, with or without the Palestinians, has a historical conflict with Israel or with anybody who occupied the territory Israel is occupying now. As I told you at the very beginning, Egypt exists in Africa but lives in Arab Asia. Israel is blocking the land bridge that connects Egypt with its natural environment. This was made very clear by An-Nasir in 1954, when he rejected Israel's demand to attend the Bandung Conference on the grounds that it was an Asian country. He told Nehru and our other friends in the Afro-Asian movement that Israel was not an Asian nation. He added that he would be ready to accept the UN Palestine partition plan as amended by Count Bernadotte. Why? Because the frontiers set in that plan left the land bridge between Africa and Asia open.

"This is a very important factor which you on the eastern front generally ignore: Under no circumstances can a situation be accepted in which there is a barrier separating the 100 million Arabs of Africa from the 80 million Arabs in Asia. That wall cannot last for long. The pressure on it from both sides is bound to increase, and the day will come when the wall will be swept away by an Arab flood.

"Egypt has a historical conflict with the Israelis or with any other force that tries to close its bridge to Asia, whether that force displaces the original inhabitants of Palestine (as has happened) or not. The Palestinians have a natural ally in Egypt."

But the return of Egypt to the Arab world would not be an overnight affair, Haykal said. The mutual desire for reconciliation was there, consensus on some points (like the point that Egypt must not give anything away on behalf of the Palestinians) was there, but time and patience was needed for these factors to bear fruit.

After the April withdrawal, he said, "I can't see the autotomy talks continuing. What I can see is the Arabs holding a summit conference, perhaps, reviving the Fahd Peace Plan and combining it with the Soviet proposal of an international peace conference to come up with a formula acceptable to all parties. That alone would achieve nothing, however, as long as the balance of power remained tipped in favor of the Israelis. For a political position to be valid, it has to be backed by a favorable balance of power.

"So the Arabs' first priority should be an attempt to restore this balance as much as possible -- first politically on the regional and international levels, and then militarily."

Haykal intimated that restoring the balance should involve an Arab move toward Egypt.

"After agreement on something like the Fahd plan," he said "perhaps contacts will be intensified with Egypt, and perhaps Egypt can find the beginnings of a way to return."

One important approaching event, Haykal said, was the non-aligned nations conference in Baghdad next September, which Egypt and other Arab countries were expected to attend, along with the preparatory meeting in Kuwait.

"These meetings are important to us. We are out of the Arab League and the Islamic Conference; the African circle and the non-aligned circle are all that is left to Egypt. I pray to God that we will send a high-powered battery to both the preparatory meeting and the conference, instead of pale, faceless diplomats."

Haykal considers non-alignment vital for Egypt and the rest of the Arabs. It is essential, he says, for the Arab world to maintain good relations with both the U.S. and the USSR.

"Egypt and the rest of the Arab world are NATO's flank and the Warsaw Pact's underbelly. We cannot afford anything but non-alignment, because alignment with either East or West would crush us. If there is to be a world war, which I doubt, we would do well to stay out of it. If there is to be no war, alignment could make us the only losers in the East-West struggle. Our security and the future of our children depend more than ever before on a balanced position between the two."

The non-alignment conference could promote this balanced position, but it was doubtful that it would bring Egypt and the Arabs together again, he said.

"If I were to allow myself to dream," he said, "I would dream of President Mubarak appearing in Riyadh tomorrow, in Baghdad the day after tomorrow, in Fes the day after that. That would be a happy sight."

But it would be foolish to entertain such hopes, he said. It was unrealistic to think of the restoration of normal Arab-Egyptian relations as long as there was an Israeli ambassador in Cairo.

"I don't think any Arab ambassador can return to Cairo while there is an Israeli ambassador there," Haykal said. "Cairo is not London or Paris, and no Arab ambassador is likely to coexist with an Israeli ambassador in the capital of Egypt. I can stand seeing my enemy in the house of someone for whom I don't really care, but I cannot accept him in my brother's home. So this will pose some difficulty."

"What do we do? Kick the Israeli ambassador out? No. I say let him stay, let this experiment run its course. History and the constants of the Arab world are on our side. The time will come when Egypt and the Egyptians will discover that their interests do not lie in an alliance with Israel. There will be adjustments and readjustments, and these will not all be our own doing. Israel will itself facilitate Egypt's return to the Arab world."

"How? I am one of those who believe that Israel cannot afford peace. Peace would mean integration in the area, which would mean 'levantization,' as they themselves call it, and they reject that. So they must live in isolation. Israel is doomed to be a garrison state. Its peace with Egypt is meant only to isolate Egypt, on which they have no claims, from the rest of the Arab world and give it a freer hand in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, where all their claims are.

"The Israelis will always make mistakes. They will create the dynamics and the situations which will facilitate the return of Egypt to the Arab world."

Israeli-Egyptian relations had no future, Haykal said. It was inconceivable to think of a lasting relationship between a nation like Egypt, which "is a part of this area from ternity to eternity," and an entity like Israel, which "is a temporary symptom of Western power," expecially when this entity was blocking Egypt's land bridge to Asia and constantly creating justifications for Egypt's return to the Arab world.

Commercial links between Egypt and Israel would not save the relationship either, Haykal said. "According to the agreements, we are giving Israel two million tons of oil a year. What can they export to us in return? Eggs? Some chemicals? The first year's accounts will be settled by our purchase of the Sinai settlements (because it is Egypt which is paying the generous compensation Israel is giving the settlers to leave, you know). But after that, what happens? I see no technical expertise that they can send us, for instance. The Israeli technical miracle is a myth. With all due respect, one Egyptian farm is more advanced than many of Israel's settlements.

"What does Israel have? Look at its balance of payments: the first item is citrus; the second is military sales in participation with the Americans; and the third is diamonds, which are only cut and polished -- not produced -- in Israel. So what can they offer us?"

The Egyptian-Israeli relationship was doomed, Haykal said, and the Arab-Egyptian reconciliation was inevitable.

But it would take time.

"Which," he said, "makes me a short-term pessimist and a long-term optimist."

Haykal Interview Continues

NC242240 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 22-28 Mar 82 p 41

[Inset into interview by Mohammad Hasanayn Haykal with Mona as-Said of Beirut's MONDAY MORNING magazine in Cairo "last week": "Haykal: No Official Missions, No Return to the Egyptian Press"]

[Text] Commenting on reports that President Mubarak may ask him to visit various Arab countries to pave the way for Egyptian-Arab reconciliation, Mohammad Hasanayn Haykal told me he would hesitate to accept such a mission.

"I am ready to do whatever I can in my private capacity, but I want to maintain my freedom," he said. "The man has not asked me to do anything, and I would hesitate if he did. I think I can be more effective talking to you and others than I would be if I were a diplomat who had to watch his words.

"If I were a diplomat, could I have told you that Israel was a barrier separating the Arabs and was bound to crumble sooner or later? I couldn't -- not without starting an uproar. I can be more effective, for instance, if I talked to Prince Fahd as a man who has witnessed a great experience, a man who has an idea, than I would be if I whispered a message from Mubarak into Prince Fahd's ear.

"Neither Egypt nor the Arab world has anything to gain by turning me into a silent diplomat. We have a hundred silent diplomats and wheelers and dealers who can do this sort of thing and are in fact doing it. I prefer to talk openly to the entire Arab world, as I am doing now."

Haykal added that because he wanted to retain his freedom, he would also refuse to write for the Egyptian media.

"In countries like ours, especially in a transitional stage such as this, there is only one authority and all the media in this country are subject to that authority. This means that if you write for the Egyptian press, you must express the views of Egyptian authority, whether you agree with them or not. I do not agree with the current official options in Egypt. They are not mine. My o[illegible]ions are clear to everyone.

"If the Egyptian authorities permit an independent newspaper to be published, I will publish a newspaper; I will enter the journalism game, as a newspaper. Until then, I prefer to stay away from the Egyptian press, because I am incapable of expressing the official view and am not allowed to express my own."

Haykal is now working on a book about the assassination of As-Sadat entitled 'Autumn Fury," which will be published in England next October. Arrangements have already been made for its publication in 11 other languages.

SABOTEURS DESTROY IRAQI OIL PIPELINE

NC251256 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Early this morning, another attempt was made to blow up the Iraqi oil pipeline in the Al-'Abdah area, near the al-'Arqah River Basin. Unknown persons placed an explosive device on the pipeline. The resulting explosion destroyed the pipeline. A similar sabotage attempt failed early yesterday.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE NO 656

JN241745 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Communique No 656 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 24 March 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With the support of almighty God, with the sword of our glorious and immoral ancestors and out of commitment to history. Arab generations, the nation and the homeland to regain this nation's usurped territories and waters, our courageous armed forces continue to wage battles of dignity and honor in the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah, reiterating as they always have that they are the strongest, bravest and most capable of settling battles and destroying the forces of the evil Khomeyni clique, whose rancor and hatred will inevitably lead them to death and annihiliation, God willing.

Results of the battles in the Shush and Dezful sectors yesterday evening and today were as follows:

1. Fierce battles have continued for the third day all along the Shush-Dezful front. The enemy brought in additional reinforcements to assist its defeated forces, which are desperately trying to harm the victories of our valiant units while dreaming impossible dreams they failed to achieve during the past period of the war. The enemy is receiving strong blows from our valient forces, which are inflicting on it more losses in human life and equipment. These losses amount to thousands of killed, wounded and prisoners. Our forces have seized new hardware and military equipment. We will announce these details as well as our sacrifices in future communiques.

2. Our fighter planes and helicopters continued all day today their fierce and effective raids on the enemy's remnants, units and concentrations in the Shush-Dezful front, scoring direct hits and inflicting heavy losses in equipment and hardware. All our fighter planes and helicopters returned safely to base. Our air defense shut down an enemy fighter plane and one helicopter over the Shush-Dezful sector in the southern sector of operations theater.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 Mar 1982

HUNDREDS OF IRANIAN POW'S ARRIVE IN BAGHDAD

JN231634 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Mar ((INA) -- The first group of hundreds of Iranian POW's captured by the Iraqi forces in the Dezful and Shush areas yesterday and the day before arrived here late this afternoon.

The POW's were shown to the public in one of Baghdad's suburbs. An INA correspondent met with several prisoners, most of whom are reserve soldiers and regular Iranian forces. The prisoners expressed their gratitude for the care and good treatment accorded to them by the Iraqi officials and Armed Forces personnel. They described the Iranian communiques on the war as false and stressed the Iranian people's desire to end the war with Iraq. Other prisoners talked about Iran's economic situation and described it as very bad and added that their country is witnessing a strangling crisis.

CAPTIVE IRANIAN PILOT ON IRAQI AIR FORCE

JN250856 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) -- A captive Iranian pilot has stressed that the Iranian Air Force has lost its best pilots and most of its aircraft due to the Iraqi pilots and antiaircraft defenses.

Capt Kamal Khatim, who was taken captive after the downing of his F-5 plane over the city of Kirkuk, said that the Iraqi Air Force has become the master of the air and that it had managed to impose its superiority with high efficiency and bravery due to the Iraqi pilots' good training and high morale.

Speaking in a television interview last night, the Iranian pilot said that the Iranian Air Force failed to support the ground units in the battles raging with the Iraqi units due to the Iraqi Air Force superiority. He indicated that there was no hope of the Iranian Air Force undermining or influencing Iraqi air superiority.

The Iranian pilot said that before its war with Iraq, Iran believed that it possessed the largest air force in the region. However, he said, when war broke out it lost most of its fighter planes and was surprised to see Iraqi aircraft reaching the farthest point in Iran and flying over the capital, Tehran.

He added: We were really surprised to see an Iraqi MiG-21 down the very sophisticated F-14 plane. He added that this shows the Iraqi pilots good training, high efficiency and unique bravery.

The Iranian pilot stressed that his country is receiving direct aid from Syria, North Korea and the Zionist entity. He said: We have received a lot of aid from Israel.

Capt Karmal Khatim, who was born in Ahvaz in 1951 and was trained in the United States and who worked in the Dezful Air Base, added that the political and security situation in Iran is extremely bad, assassinations are continuing and security and safety do not exist in any part of Iran.

SADDAM HUSAYN RETURNS TO BAGHDAD FROM FRONT

JN260821 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn returned to Baghdad last night at the end of a visit of several days to the southern sector of the battlefield. On his way back to Baghdad, the president visited the city of Al-Kut where he was briefed on the citizens' affairs and the projects being implemented there.

Last night Baghdad television carried a film on the president's tour of the southern sector and his meetings with the commanders of the military units in that sector. He was briefed in detail about the hero fighters' combat preparations to defeat the collapsing Persian enemy remnants and about the fighters' great ability to reach any target drawn up for them by the leadership.

The president toured several positions in the southern sector and saw part of the military operations which have raged during the past few days and during which the racist Persian enemy sustained thousands of dead or wounded and various equipment and armor destroyed.

In his talks to his soldiers in the various positions, President Saddam Husayn stressed that the Iraqis are fighting with heroism and ethics and that they will certainly retaliate for their armless brothers who were killed by the Persian enemy after being captured.

MINISTER RAMADAN STRESSES DESIRE TO END WAR

JN252028 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Niger President Seyni Kountche. The message was handed by Niger Planning Minister Brah Mahamane to Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, during their meeting today. The message deals with bilateral relations and with the means to consolidate and promote these relations to serve their joint struggle against Zionism and imperialism and their tools.

Ramadan asked the guest minister to convey President Saddam Husayn's greetings to President Kountche and the Iraqi people's appreciation for the noble feelings and sincere desire of the Niger people for supporting the issues of our Arab people. Ramadan expressed his thanks for the desire made clear by the Niger president to expand cooperation and strengthen relations between the two countries. He said that Iraq is ceaselessly working to beef up cooperation with the African countries and to consolidate the Nonaligned Movement's role and effectiveness to prevent the influence of the superpowers.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added: Despite war circumstances, we are working hard to bring about the convocation of the seventh nonaligned conference in Baghdad next September. We have so far accomplished the portion required by the aforementioned conference.

He expressed Iraqi appreciation for Niger's stands on the real dispute with Iran, stressing that Iraq had never wished the war and that it has exerted all its peaceful efforts for the sake of regaining its land and waters. He added that the Iranian rulers insisted on waging the war not because they sought to keep part of our land and waters, but because they sought to achieve further control. This prompted us to confront the aggression. He asserted Iraq's readiness, out of its principles and at the behest of world opinion, to solve the dispute by peaceful means and to cooperate with all honorable mediations.

The guest minister said the Niger people and government harbor respect and appreciation for the Iraqi people and government headed by President Saddam Husayn. He said that his country is fully aware of the dimensions of the war which is imposed on Iraq by imperialism and Zionism -- the war aimed at halting its progress and development. He asserted the Niger president's eagerness to bring about the success of the seventh nonaligned conference.

The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Thamir Razuqi and the Niger ambassador in Kuwait.

OIL PIPELINE EXPLOSION DISRUPTS TRIPOLI SUPPLY

NC251445 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Security sources have reported that the Iraqi oil pipeline that carries oil to Tripoli was the target of sabotage early this morning. Unknown persons blew up the pipeline in the Qubbat Shamra area near the Al-'Arqah River, in 'Akkar.

Walid Mawlawi, director general of the oil installations in Tripoli, has stated that only material damage was caused and no fires broke out. Crude oil flowed into the river, which flows toward the sea. He added that work teams in the oil installations rushed to the explosion site and tried to contain the damage. However, the flow of crude oil has been suspended as a result of this act of sabotage.

Commenting on this incident, Industry and Oil Minister Muhammad Yusuf Baydun said this sabotage will not affect the refinery's operations, as the crude oil stored at the refinery is sufficient for at least 1 and 1/2 months. The incident will not affect the distribution of petroleum products.

LEBANESE, SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET

NC251312 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Minister Fu'ad Butrus has announced that he will meet with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Shtawrah [in Lebanon] on Tuesday to discuss some issues pertaining to bilateral relations and developments in the area.

MAJOR HADDAD COMMENTS ON WEST BANK, EMBASSY ATTACKS

NC260838 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Free Lebanon Commander Maj Sa'id Haddad has commented on some current topics as follows:

1. I repeat my words to the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip that they are playing with fire and are endangering their future for the sake of a handful of murderers, blackmailers and swindlers who work under the direction of archswindler and juggler Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Don't you know that Israel can follow the example of the Arab states and declare your area a military area, prevent any correspondents from visiting your area and covering your news and use harsh methods against you without letting anyone help you or speak about you, just as the 'Alawite regime is doing against the Sunnis in Hamah and other Syrian towns? Have you asked yourselves what the so-called PLO is offering you to inflame your feelings other than empty and big talk, such as describing you as heroes, and diplomatic efforts without daring to carry out any military action to ease the pressure on you? The huge quantity of weapons this organization is stockpiling in Lebanon is intended to be used solely against the Lebanese people if they complain about the occupation of their land by the swindlers.

2. No one expected the so-called miniauthority on southern Lebanon to succeed. This is because no Arab state wants to put pressure on the swindlers to withdraw from southern Lebanon and allow the Lebanese Army to replace them, as Lebanon is rightly demanding. The Lebanese people must understand that what the swindlers have taken by force will only be retaken by force. Therefore, if Lebanese officials really want to regain sovereignty over southern Lebanon, they must order the Lebanese Army to begin a battle to liberate southern Lebanon, beginning from Khaldah [near Beirut].

We are certain the Lebanese people will assist the army in its campaign. We will also help the army with all our strength. However, if such a decision cannot be adopted, although it is a correct and sound decision, we ask the officials to secretly encourage the Lebanese Army personnel to join our army. The army men who are ready to wage the battle of liberation must without delay join the free Lebanese Army. The disease has become known to all the officials who are serving the occupation forces and the only remedy is to wage a battle of liberation.

3. I advise the Syrian rulers to stop their dirty methods in Lebanon. If they want to mete out revenge on the embassies of some states because of the anti-Syrian policies of these states, they must mete out revenge on them in Syria and not in Lebanon. If they want to mete out revenge on the Iraqis by striking at their interests, they must blow up the Iraqi pipeline inside Syria and not inside Lebanon. It is about time for the Syrians to stop their foxiness, cheap morals and dirty methods and to demonstrate a minimum of moral courage, frankness and honesty.

PROVINCES OBSERVE 1-HOUR WORK STOPPAGE 25 MAR

JN252030 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] In solidarity with our heroic and steadfast kinfolk, the sons of our people in the villages of the Golan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip -- who are courageously resisting the vicious Zionist occupation and its brutal repressive measures against the Arab inhabitants in the occupied Arab territories -- and in expression of our masses' indignation at Zionist occupation of Arab territories, a 1-hour work stoppage was carried out throughout the Syrian provinces at 1200 today. All work and activity at Ba'th Party institutions and all public and private sector establishments stopped as an expression of solidarity with our kinfolk in the occupied territory, an affirmation of the bonds of fraternity and common destiny and a token of support for their brave resistance to Zionist enemy plans and conspiracies.

OPPOSITION LEADER BAYANUNI ON NEW ALLIANCE

PM241521 Paris LE MATIN in French 22 Mar 82 p 16

[Jacques de Vernisy report: "Syria: Opposition Decrees 'People's Armed Struggle'"]

[Text] The Syrian opposition has just decreed a "people's armed struggle" to overthrow the regime of President Hafiz al-Asad and the Alawite minority that monopolizes power in Damascus. "All the regime's opponents who were hitherto working separately have decided to join forces," Shaykh 'Ali Bayanuni, one of the three leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, told LE MATIN during a brief stay in Paris.

On 11 March, the representatives of various opposition factions met to form a national alliance for the liberation of Syria and to adopt a charter, whose first principle specifies a "people's armed struggle to overthrow the present regime," added Bayanuni, who was accompanied by Dr Darwish, Islamic Front spokesman in Europe. They regard this as an "historic decision."

The charter has received the support of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Socialist Ba'th Party (pro-Iraq), the Islamic Front, the Arab Socialist Party and a number of independent political figures.

The charter, which has already been printed, has 16 principles. It specifies that once the regime has been overthrown " a provisional government will be formed to organize as quickly as possible the election of a constituent assembly in order to draw up a permanent constitution." The new regime will be "constitutional, based on the separation of powers and guaranteeing political pluralism and the equality of all citizens. This is the regime the Syrian people want."

Islam "will be the state religion" (which is already the case), but it is specified that the rights of non-Muslims will be preserved. The charter also makes provision for "the reorganiztion of the army and state establishments on the basis of competence and equality in order to preserve national unity," and the changing of harmful economic situations to end exploitation, theft and corruption. The families of the martyrs and victims of the present regime will receive compensation."

At the international level the document advocates "Palestine's liberation from Zionist usurpation and support for the PLO, the struggle for Arab unity and nonalignment for Syria, which should remain outside international conflicts."

[Question] Would Syria withdraw from Lebanon?

"Of course. Lebanon for the Lebanese," Bayanuni told us.

The Syrian opposition's main criticism of Hafiz al-Asad is that he has introduced "the evil of political denominationalism, which the country had never experienced throughout its long history." Thanks to this, a religious minority -- the Alawites, who represent 10 to 12 percent of the population -- "have seized all key positions in the state, army and national security [organs]."

Of course, the destruction of 60 percent of Hamah, whose uprising lasted almost all of February, despite the large-scale use of artillery, air force and tanks, constituted the "paroxysm of this ruling tyranny." (There are between 12,000 and 80,000 political prisoners in Syria, depending on the sources). According to Bayanuni, the toll of that uprising is even higher than had been stated, "some 10,000 members of the forces of order killed and 20,000 civilians, including many women and children."

[Question] Were there mass desertions from the ranks of the government forces, as was claimed?

"Not mass desertions but desertions, espeically from the 43d Division, which is usually stationed in Hamah, and from police."

Bayanuni also told us that the inhabitants who fled Hamah have been banned from returning there. Moreover, to crush that Sunni center once and for all, Damascus has just made available a sum of 3 billion francs to build 5,000 houses that will be allocated exclusively to Alawites. A new bypass will make it possible to pass Hamah on the Damascus-Aleppo road.

[Question] Why did other cities, like Aleppo, not rise up at the same time as Hamah?

"The government took considerable security measures and had no hesitation in threatening to kill the Aleppo traders who were going to strike."

"The Al-Asad regime has played all its cards and is now living through its last days," Shaykh Bayanuni nonetheless predicted.

REVOLUTION LEADER AL-ATRASH DIES 26 MAR

JN261042 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus -- With great sorrow, President Hafiz al-Asad has mourned the death of Sultan Pasha al-Atrash, general commander of the Syrian revolution, who died this morning at the age of 90. He spent his life struggling against colonialism and for the independence of the homeland and the attainment of its national and pan-Arab objectives.

The departed will be laid out in the As-Suwayda' playing field until 1000 on Sunday so people can bid him farewell. He will be buried in his village of Al-Qurayyah at 1300 Sunday..

BAR-LEV: WEST BANK POLICY 'FOUNDED ON FORCE'

TA251612 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1130 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Interview with MK Hayim Bar-Lev, secretary of the Labor Party, by unidentified correspondent; live in the studio]

[Text] [Question] Good day, sir.

[Answer] Good day.

[Question] Mr Bar-Lev, do you think that we are facing a decisive moment of truth, as Professor Milson said?

[Answer] We are certainly facing significant decisions on more than one front. To my great regret, the Government of Israel is distorting matters in such a way that, in my opinion, these decisions will not in the end be to our benefit.

[Question] What is your opinion about the action taken in Judaea and Samaria today -- the dismissal of the mayors? Is this a wise step? Is there perhaps, at least, a little wisdom in it?

[Answer] What is occurring in Judaea and Samaria is the result of two things: One is the Likud's view of the permanent solution in the West Bank, on the border between Israel and Jordan, and that view as I see it is a terrible catastrophe; the second thing is the routine, daily policy in the territories which is an end result of that view of the permanent solution, and the policy is achieving the opposite result from the defined intention. After all, we must remember that a few months ago, with the foundation of this government and with the appointment of this defense minister, the intention, as it was expressed by them, was to bring about more liberalization, more freedom, less military intervention. They took down roadblocks and stopped control [at the roadblocks] to encourage coexistence between the Arab population and the Jewish population. In practice, what do we see? We see a policy founded on one thing only: force. Of course, Israel has force -- both military and authoritative force -- and, technically, it can dismiss councils, it can cancel elections, it can dismiss people. But the question is not one of force, because the solution to the problem can only come through political negotiations.

[Question] But if we return to what is happening, to the actual deeds as you say, Bassam ash-Shak'ah and Karim Khalaf are not easy clients, if one can phrase it like this. They also sow terror, they sow violence, create an atmosphere of hostility, as we have heard. How should one behave toward them?

[Answer] They are certainly not easy clients? [last word in English] but neither are they new clients. They were elected mayors and as long as their activity fits in with the post to which they were elected, we must be satisfied with this. Their thoughts, their ideas, their views regarding future solutions, this is their problem and as long as this does not contradict their functioning as mayors, we should not be impressed by this. I am not aware that over the last week or 2 these two mayors took any practical steps contradicting this trend. I regret to say that this policy -- the policy that has been followed for the last 2 or 3 months -- is causing the entire, or almost the entire, Arab population in the West Bank to rebel. As I said, I am asking the government: How? Only by force? Only by virtue of the fact that, technically, we can do things -- is this how the government thinks it can solve the problems? I do not share this view.

[Question] As for the elections you mentioned those on which they base legitimacy, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said from the Knesset podium that this government is eating the disgraceful fruits of the Alignment rule in Judaea and Samaria and that it is trying to cope with the mayors who support the PLO and who were elected because of a mistaken -- or worse than that -- move by the alignment.

[Answer] Well, this government has an excuse for everything that does not go well for it: The 30 years of Alignment rule. The defense minister also uses this excuse and those vain accusations After all, the Likud has been in power for 5 years. We have been ruling in the territories since the 6-day war, almost 15 years, and matters have never reached the deteriorated condition we see today. For example, in the West Bank, there were problems. There was a period during the early 1970's when the inhabitants there and the world as well thought that we were facing a civil revolt. There were problems. But we never came to the conclusion that we had to dismiss an elected council and set up an appointed committee. We used that threat, we warned and it worked. Hence, that excuse may be a scapegoat for people who are not prepared to face up to what really happened.

For 5 years of Likud rule, the heads of those councils have functioned and what suddenly happened today? What did those two do over the last 2 or 3 weeks that required or justified such a move? In my opinion, the dismissal is a link in the deteriorating chain of relations between the Jewish population and Israeli rule and the Arab inhabitants. This is a link and I think that as long as this government does not change its views on the permanent solution -- that is, as long as the Government of Israel thinks that the permanent solution should be annexation of the entire West Bank, all of Judaea and Samaria -- I fear that in daily policy we can expect such deteriorations, which are definitely not to Israel's benefit.

[Correspondent] Well, that is your opinion and the argument after all, in only beginning. Mr Bar-Lev, thank you very much for taking the trouble to be with us.

LABOR DISCUSSES TERRITORIES, COALITION CHARGES

TA251936 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The situation in the territories came up this afternoon at a Labor Party meeting in Tel Aviv. Party officials blasted the government's handling of the situation. Nancy Goodwin reports:

[Begin recording] [Goodwin] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres and Knesset faction leader Moshe Shahal were [word distinct] in their criticism of Prime Minister Begin and hit back hard at Defense Minister Sharon's contention that the current problems with West Bank mayors can be laid at Shim'on Peres' doorstep. Peres was angry about Sharon's allegations that he is to blame for allowing elections to take place on the West Bank with PLO candidates on the list during Peres' tenure as defense minister. The party's mood was that if any one person is to blame it is Sharon for his heavyhandedness on the West Bank. Hayim Herzog explains:

[Herzog] When Mr Weizman was minister of defense the things were perfect in the West Bank and in Gaza, and the developments in the West Bank seem to coincide with Mr Sharon's taking over and beginning to apply his policy.

[Goodwin] However, Herzog did agree somewhat with the government's claim that this current unrest is no coincidence but is a planned occurrence around Israel's withdrawal from Sinai and therefore he thinks the situation has deteriorated because of the actions of both Ari'el Sharon and Yasir 'Arafat. But what does the Labor Party intend to do about it? Try for new elections?

[Herzog] Well, it looks as if we are going to have new elections in any case. Since I don't see the government being able to weather the present position.

But, at the moment, what we are doing is acting as a responsible opposition and attempting to replace the government with a better government, and I hope we'll be able to do that.

[Goodwin] Labor Party sources say they aren't sure when they will bring up another no confidence motion over the government's handling of the West Bank but implied that it might happen next week. [end recording]

PERES ACCUSES BEGIN OF EXPLOITING WEST BANK

TA252004 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres this evening firmly rejected the charges made against him by Cabinet ministers that he was responsible for the emergence of pro-PLO mayors in Judaea and Samaria. Shim'on Peres claimed the Likud leaders are preoccupied with character assassination and that this is a Likud tradition to make unfair political capital of problems facing Israel. MK Peres said this at a meeting of the Labor Party center, and our party affairs correspondent reports from there:

[Begin videotape] [Mish'al] Shim'on Peres, firm, furious and categorical, dedicated his speech at the Labor Party center meeting to the Judaea and Samaria issue. Mr Peres rejected the criticism leveled at him, that his policy in the territories when he served as defense minister led to the present situation in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

[Peres] In my opinion, Begin began his election campaign with the Arlosoroff murder affair and the Likud now wants to continue with the situation in Judaea and Samaria on the assumption that incitement will gain votes for the revisionists. Six years elapsed from 1976 to 1982 -- why was there relative quiet in Judaea and Samaria until Ari'el Sharon came? Why, when 'Ezer Weizman was defense minister, was [this issue] not felt?

[Mish'al] Peres later sharply attacked Defense Minister Sharon, saying he was responsible for the deterioration in the territories. In the course of this personal settling of accounts, Peres said the following:

[Peres] Ari'al Sharon has a very interesting biography. He announced he is prepared to meet with 'Arafat, not only with 'Isam Sartawi, but with 'Arafat. He almost set up a party with Moshe Qol [member of the extinct Independent Liberals Party] and we heard that he almost snatched Yosi Sarid from us. He suggested to Sarid that he be number two on his list. In addition, he held negotiations with some other people whom we consider ultra-dovish. In short, he said the Judaea and Samaria issue is not so important. All of a sudden he is accusing us...[sentence interrupted by Mish'al]

[Mish'al] Shim'on Peres also said: We never made political capital of any blood, neither Jewish nor Arab. We lowered the tone of our criticism about events in the territories but now that the Likud is accusing us of what is happening there we will not keep quiet:

[Peres] Now, what they are saying on the radio, in days of tension and blood, about the Alignment -- what does this mean? And what happened on the eve of the elections as far as communities in Israel are concerned? Was it not the same incitement? What do they think? Do they think they will frighten or deter us with this revisionist incitement? [end videotape]

Begin's Office Reacts

TA260711 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Last night, the prime minister's office reacted to Shim'on Peres' charges that the government was exploiting the situation in the territories to make political gains.

The prime minister's office stated that the first person to level criticism at Shim'on Peres' policy when he was defense minister was none other than Yitzhaq Rabin.

FINANCE MINISTER CALLS FOR EARLY ELECTIONS

TA251818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Finance Minister Yoram Aridor has called for elections to be advanced to the earliest possible date. At a convention of the Israeli Institute of Management, the finance minister said the government cannot rule in a situation where there is a tie in the Knesset. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Aridor sharply attacked what he called the Alignment's rioting in the Knesset during yesterday's debate on the supplementary budget. According to Aridor, such conduct endangers democracy. On another subject he stated that no violence in the territories will prevent the government from implementing international agreements and that it will continue to implement the peace treaty in the future.

LIKUD SOURCE SAYS BEGIN MAY RESIGN SOON

TA261000 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Mar 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by A. Kinarti]

[Text] A senior Likud source said yesterday that the prime minister may go to the president within a week of two and inform him of his resignation. According to this source, in view of the situation in the coalition with the majority dependent on MK Hayim Druckman and despite the Cabinet decision made at its evening session on 24 March that Begin should not resign, Begin's move may be unavoidable.

This view is shared by several senior Likud ministers and personalities, some of whom belong to the Herut movement, especially the finance minister, in light of reports reaching the Likud leadership about contacts conducted since 23 March between the Alignment and NRP, TAMI and Agudat Yisra'el about an alternative to the Likud government if Begin goes to the president and if the government falls, something which seems possible. This information reaching the Likud has generated nervousness and fears among the Herut and Liberal leaders regarding the intentions and suspicions attributed to their coalition partners.

Alignment and coalition circles yesterday hinted to the DAVAR correspondent that the contacts are still a matter of "feelers" and that they were held not only in the Knesset building but in Tel Aviv as well. It was further learned from these sources that the contacts may increase next week after the Knesset vote on the budget if the government receives only a tie vote or a minority vote.

Agudat Yisra'el member is said to have stated this week "not for publication" that Agudat An Yisra'el for all its wish to continue as a loyal partner in the coalition and with all due respect and appreciation it has for the prime minister "will not be able to depend on Rabbi Druckman's vote. We have rabbis of our own."

As for the NRP it was reported that contacts are with the Lamifne faction [headed by Minister Burg] while Minister Zvulun Hammer from the NRP youth faction has not yet expressed his opinion on the situation and his faction colleague, MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, is firmly opposed to contacts with the Alignment. Ben-Me'ir is one of the NRP activists who claim that "the NRP owes a great deal to the prime minister having met it half when it was in the lurch, following its loss in the elections, and that he should not be abandoned now that he is distressed."

Alignment figures who hold contacts with the religious, and, as reported, also with TAMI, "envelope themselves with silence." They neither confirm nor deny the reports.

It has been learned that one of the NRP's conditions in the contacts is an Alignment commitment to postpone the municipal elections slated for November this year in view of the Likud's intention to hold early Knesset elections together with the municipal elections. The NRP contends in the talks with the Labor Party members that the NRP is not ready for early Knesset elections because nothing has yet been done to recover from its defeat in the elections and the split of TAMI members from it.

It has been reported that the Likud leadership is aware of the contacts between the Alignment and the coalition partners and that "the prime minister possesses information on this too." This may also be the reason that prompted the prime minister, as reported, to summon to him at the end of the week or the beginning of next week, a limited forum of Likud leaders to discuss the developments expected in the coalition and the early elections issue. The prime minister also intends to hold separate talks with the NRP, Agudat Yisra'el and TAMI leaders. It is possible that the prime minister will tell coalition leaders and his Likud Executive and Knesset faction colleagues that he may change his mind and go to the president.

BURG: NRP WILL NOT HELP TOPPLE GOVERNMENT

TA260709 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Minister Yosef Burg said the NRP will not partake in the conspiracy to topple the government. Speaking to our correspondent, Minister Burg said that only if the prime minister himself decided to resign would everything be open for reconsideration. Burg denied that he had met with Shim'on Peres to discuss the possibility of establishing a government led by Peres.

TELEM SUPPORTS BEGIN'S WEST BANK POLICY

TA260741 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Yiga'el Hurvitz phoned the prime minister last night and expressed the support of his faction, Telem, for government policy in Judaea and Samaria. This was reported by sources close to the prime minister.

POST POLL SHOWS LIKUD WOULD WIN 49 SEATS

TA251044 Jerusalem POST in English 25 Mar 82 p 5

[Text] Tel Aviv -- If elections were held today, the Likud would win 49 seats and the Alignment would drop to 45, according to a poll recently conducted by Dr Mina Zemah. The results will be published in next week's MONITIN magazine. Both lists have 48 seats in the present Knesset.

The National Religious Party would drop to five seats, but Agudat Yisra'el would retain the five it now has. Tehiya may get an additional MK and become a four-member faction. The Liberal and dovish Shinuy may rise to three. Shulamit Aloni's RATZ list can expect two seats instead of one. The communists and their allies will remain a four-member group.

Political divisions have not changed much since the last elections, but Telem, the late Moshe Dayan's party, has virtually disappeared, Zemah says. The poll also notes that Prime Minister Menahem Begin's popularity has risen -- 48.6 percent as compared with 42.3 percent in December. Another finding indicates the steady popularity of MK Yitzhaq Rabin, 23.3 percent, who is tailed by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, 14 percent, and Alignment chief Shim'on Peres, 12.7 percent.

The poll was conducted between March 7 and March 11, shortly after the eviction of Yamit settlers began, but before the "Meridor invention" affair. Generally, the public approved of the government's performance (34.7 percent for, 24.8 percent against). The opposition, however, met with general disapproval -- 20.9 percent condoned its performance, but 38.4 percent condemned it. The poll was commissioned by the Dahaf advertising and public relations agency.

BEGIN'S OPTIONS ON RESIGNATION ISSUE EXAMINED

TA251313 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Mar 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by 'Uzi Benziman and Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpts] Replying to a question, sources close to Mr Begin last night said the prime minister does not see himself bound by the Cabinet decision of Tuesday night not to submit his resignation to the president. In his opinion, the decision only applies to the results of the no-confidence vote in the Knesset and it does not prevent him from exercising his legal right to initiate the resignation of the government anytime he deems fit.

The sources noted that the law provides the prime minister with the right to submit his resignation to the president. In Begin's opinion, the Cabinet decision of Tuesday night was only meant to prevent him from going to the president yesterday but it cannot restrict his moves in the near future. The Cabinet adopted this decision to not create a connection between the results of the no-confidence vote and Mr Begin's decision to resign. Now that this affair is over, the prime minister sees himself free to initiate the resignation of the government if and when he deems fit, the sources added.

Likud members yesterday assessed that the final test had been put off until next week when the Knesset is scheduled to vote on the additional budget law. If the law is not passed with a majority of at least one vote, they believe the scenario of Tuesday night will recur and the prime minister may announce his decision to resign. On the other hand, if a majority is mustered to pass the budget law the Knesset will go into recess until 2 May, namely, about 1 week after the final evacuation of the Sinai. In that case, a more solid coalition majority led by the Likud may emerge because, among other things, the four Knesset members opposed to the withdrawal -- Rabbi Druckman, Ge'ula Kohen, Yuval Ne'eman and Hanan Porat -- would then vote for a government that implements their policy in the territories. According to these Likud figures if this scenario materializes and the government does not fail in passing the budget law and the future of the government is assured, the possibility should not be ruled out that the road may be paved for the incorporation of the Alignment -- or, at least, the Labor Party -- into a national unity government.

Replying to a question, the prime minister's adviser on communications affairs, Uri Porat, last night said that Mr Begin has not relinquished the prerogative he enjoys by law to submit his resignation to the president -- if he were to decide on such a move -- and added that no Cabinet decision had preference over the law.

Authoritative sources last night added that yesterday's events in the Knesset had strengthened Mr Begin's view that the government could not control the present situation because it did not have a majority. Mr Begin has three alternatives: to wait and see whether MK Druckman is wtih the coalition or with the opposition, to initiate the dissolution of the Knesset by means of a draft law (assuming that the Alignment would have no other choice but support such a move) or submit his resignation to the president.

MA'ARIV ANALYZES BEGIN'S RESIGNATION TACTIC

TA241435 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Mar 82 p 5

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "In the Embarrassment of a 'Tie'"]

[Text] Rabbi Hayim Druckman did not stop the Sinai withdrawal by his vote yesterday. However, he did unintentionally weaken the government in its attempts to calm feelings in Judaea and Samaria. MK Druckman explained after the vote that he did not want to bring the government down, but only to halt the Sinai withdrawal. However, the final result of the vote did not cause the Sinai withdrawal to stop, because the prime minister is not going to the president today to submit his resignation; but in Judaea and Samaria some may conclude that the government has been weakened and will be unable to implement its policies which brought on the no-confidence motions yesterday.

Druckman certainly did not intend this when he caused the coalition to lose its majority in the Knesset. This is because the "tie" in yesterday's vote came as no surprise -- it was a direct result of Druckman's previous vote against the government, the vote bearing the message that the number of coalition members had decreased from 61 to 60.

There was nothing new in the opposition vote. What was new was the vote of Rabbi Druckman, whose party is in the coalition. And it was that party that at the Cabinet session last night prevented the prime minister's planned move -- that of going to the president in order to submit the government's resignation.

By making this move Begin did not intend to let the opposition rule. His maneuver was transparent: With his resignation, the government would be able to work for at least 2 months without threats of a coalition crisis and no-confidence motions; and even if Shim'on Peres tried to establish a coalition of his own, he would not be able to do so, and then Begin would form a new government. Begin's calculations were founded on the promise by the NRP leaders that they would not go with the Alignment, but as soon as the NRP announced last night that if Begin resigned they would cancel their promise, the Cabinet could not approve Begin's move.

The interesting development, then, was that a member of the NRP caused the crisis, while the leaders of the NRP prevented its radical solution through a government resignation and its reformation by Begin out of the fear that this resignation would bring in its wake early Knesset elections -- elections for which the NRP is not yet ready.

Shim'on Peres put himself in danger during the no-confidence vote -- despite the fact that he did not want the overthrow of the government now, before the completion of the withdrawal -- because he relied on the NRP to "prefer going with the Alignment to going to elections."

Peres believes that after the completion of the Sinai evacuation he will be able to change the composition of the government without needing new elections and that he will be able to establish a coalition even on the basis of these new elections. A majority is required to call for the dissolution of the Knesset and there are enough coalition Knesset members who will not rush to vote an end to their Knesset membership.

This was not Begin's calculation. He was relying on promises he had received from his coalition partners that under no circumstances would they join a coalition with Peres; hence, he tried to solve the difficult situation in which he found himself regarding Rabbi Druckman by creating a new situation: a 2-3 month period of rule by an interim government without threats of a crisis and no-confidence votes during which the Sinai evacuation and a new deployment in Judaea and Samaria could be carried out.

Begin did not reveal his secret to anyone. But it is not inconceivable that he assumed that the uncertainty that would prevail in Washington, Cairo and Western capitals over the Sinai evacuation would provide this government with much greater freedom of maneuver in Judaea and Samaria. However, since he did not tell this to the Cabinet ministers, most of them voted against his proposal about the government's resignation, and by so doing possibly eliminated the most important card he was holding for political bargaining.

Last night the government did not resign. The majority in the Cabinet turned down Begin's proposal for the government to do so. The Alignment leaders drew a breath of relief: They had feared Begin's resignation maneuver on the eve of the Sinai evacuation, fearing this maneuver would strengthen Begin's rule. Washington also drew a breath of relief, because the U.S. administration had feared that a resignation would delay the Sinai withdrawal.

But the danger of resignation has not yet passed. If no Knesset majority is found today for the interim budget and the additional budget, the government will have no alternative but to resign, and this time on conditions which will be less convenient for it. A resignation against the background of the rioting in Judaea and Samaria would be more comfortable from the aspect of Israeli public opinion.

The threat of resignation has not been lifted and the U.S. administration, which fears any delay in the completion of the Israeli evacuation of Sinai, will have to work hard in the UN Security Council, convening today, not to make things difficult for the Government of Israel and not to provide it with additional reasons for its intention of turning itself into a transition government which will want to delay the evacuation until after the election of a new government.

BEGIN WILL RESIGN IF BUDGET NOT APPROVED

TA262226 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi and Bina Barzel]

[Text] If the Knesset does not approve the interim and additional budgets next week, Prime Minister Begin will go to the president and submit his resignation. The view prevails among Likud leaders that if the budget law is not approved, early elections will be inevitable. Begin will apparently raise this issue at the Cabinet meeting on Sunday to formulate a position about holding early elections in coordination with the NRP and Agudat Yisra'el.

Two days ago, the chairman of the NRP faction in the Knesset, Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, examined the possibility of reaching an agreement with the Alignment about passing the budget. He held talks with Shim'on Peres, the head of the Knesset Alignment faction, Moshe Shahal, and the Alignment's chief representative on the Knesset Finance Committee, 'Adi Amoray. It emerged from the talks that the Alignment would be willing to support the proposed supplementary budget if the Likud accepted the Alignment's reservations about it: the transfer of millions of shekels from the allocation for Judaea and Samaria to the green line territories and the allocation of millions of shekels for the Histadrut's sick fund. The Alignment would be willing to pass the interim budget if the government announced that it does not have a majority to pass it and if the Likud and Alignment representatives on the Finance Committee presented a joint proposal for an interim budget.

GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE 'FIRM-HAND' POLICY

TA261152 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Mar 82 pp 1, 11

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] The government is determined to continue its firm-hand policy in the territories and additional removals and deterrent measures against mayors and activists affiliated with the PLO are possible.

Despite domestic and foreign criticism, it was decided during a consultation between Prime Minister Begin, Defense Minister Sharon and Foreign Minister Shamir that action should be taken to continue to bring about the collapse of the PLO strongholds in the territories.

Prime Minister Begin rejected outright criticism from the United States, European countries and opposition circles in Israel. In talks with his confidants he called this criticism "hypocrisy." In accord with Mr Begin's instruction, his office yesterday issued a sharp announcement accusing the former Alignment government -- at the time headed by Yitzhaq Rabin with Shim'on Peres as defense minister -- of responsibility for the situation prevailing in Judaea and Samaria today.

SOURCES GIVE REASONS FOR MAYORS' DISMISSALS

TA251216 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Government circles in Jerusalem have said that the dismissal of the mayors of Nabulus and Ramallah was intended to correct the mistake made during the time Shim'on Peres was minister of defense when his actions allowed PLO members to take control in the territories. The State of Israel, so the circles said, is now paying for shameful errors of the Alignment governments, especially during the time of Shim'on Peres' term as defense minister. The dismissed mayors have been inciting, these very days, against the State of Israel and the incitement reached an unprecedented peak, the circles said.

Peres Reacts

TA251610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres announced that he is disgusted rejecting the attempt to attribute to the Alignment the failure of the defense minister's policy in the territories. At the opening of the Labor Party center's meeting, Peres asked why these mayors were not PLO supporters since the beginning of the Likud government 5 years ago and why they have become so only now. He mentioned that in Camp David, Menahem Begin agreed to the participation of undeclared PLO members in the negotiations over the territories and promised not to examine their lives and history. Mr Peres believes that Begin has begun his election propaganda but that the Labor Party will not be daunted. The Labor Party will take part in the elections with considered positions and will not support incitement between Jews and Jews on the one hand, and between Jews and Arabs, on the other.

JUSTICE MINISTER SAYS DISMISSAL OF MAYORS LEGAL

TA260657 Jerusalem POST in English 26 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Text] The Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria has its legal basis in the Military Government and therefore the Palestinian mayors have no legal grounds to refuse to cooperate with it. According to Justice Minister Moshe Nisim, this is the basic legal situation on the West Bank. And the justification under international law for Israel's decision to depose the mayors. In an interview with the Jerusalem POST, Nisim said every step taken by the Israel authorities had been previously scrutinized by government law experts. The attorney-general and other high officials of the Justice Ministry were closely and constantly consulted. Nisim pointed out, too, that the Civilian Administration which the mayors insist on boycotting was welcomed by Egyptian autonomy negotiators when it was instituted.

Recalling meetings of the autonomy talks on ministerial and experts level, Nisim said the Israel side had explained at length that Israel's aim in creating the Civilian Administration was to reduce the involvement of the army in day-to-day life. The Egyptians had seen this as a progressive step. Nisim said the deterioration had resulted from a deliberate decision by Jordan and the PLO to incite violence in an effort to deter and discourage the anti-PLO forces among the inhabitants (the village leagues). The riots would have been just as bad, and perhaps much worse, even if Israel had not decided to force the issue with the recalcitrant mayors, Nisim said. The decision to incite them had been taken long before -- in response to the growing strength of the village leagues.

The justice minister's assessment was endorsed yesterday by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who said the PLO had planned the West Bank disturbances to "the minutest detail." Addressing a visiting study group from the U.S. National Defence College, Shamir said the PLO's purpose was to thwart any possibility of "progress towards a positive solution" in the Israel-Arab dispute because a positive solution would undermine the entire raison d'etre of the organization. "But the time has come to end the dispute," Shamir said, "and to give the moderate majority among the Palestinians the chance to say its piece and participate democratically in the determination of its own future."

LABOR, HADASH DENOUNCE MAYORS' DISMISSALS

TA251209 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The Labor Party says the dismissal of the Ramallah and Nabulus mayors and the appointment of army officers is yet another example of the recklessness characterizing the government's policy in the territories. An announcement made by the party's reaction team said the government must stop -- as they put it -- the insane deterioration which is harming the chances of negotiations and sapping Israel's moral strength.

Knesset members of the HADASH faction protested to the prime minister over -- as they put it -- the illegal dismissals of the town mayors. In a telegram to Mr Begin, they said this step proves that the government has not succeeded in foisting the Civilian Administration upon the Palestinians in the territories.

DEPOSED NABULUS MAYOR DENIES INCITEMENT CHARGES

TA260650 Jerusalem POST in English 26 Mar 82 p 2

[Report by David Richardson]

[Text] Bassam ash-Shak'ah acknowledged yesterday that his dismissal as mayor Nabulus was a "set-back" but he insisted that he still considered himself as mayor and that he would continue to oppose "anything that will serve Israel's aggressive policies. "He claimed that when he and some of his councillors tried to enter the municipality after he refused to accept the dismissal notice handed him by the Central Command, an officer stopped him and said: "You are half a man."

"Yes, I have lost my legs," Ash-Shak'ah claims he replied, "but I am more than you -- you have lost your mind." Military sources last night doubted the veracity of his story.

Referring to his meeting with Aluf [Maj Gen] Ori Or, Ash-Shak'ah said that he denied he was behind the demonstrations and strikes. But he added "this is how we defend our national and human rights. Your policies are illegal, you are changing the geography, the population and even the laws of the land."

Ash-Shak'a, who is accused by the authorities of being the PLO representative in the territories and the founder-chairman of the National Guidance Committee, would not answer question as to whether he was a member of Fatah. He did not, at least publicly, have any definite plans for carrying on the struggle; he insists the Palestinians have no choice but to continue. Ash-Shak'a indicated that he expected all the other mayors in the West Bank to be eventually dismissed. Referring to Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj who was often a political rival and so far insisted that he will not resign, Ash-Shak'a said, "He cannot continue if it means becoming an employee of Milson's." In the end the Israelis don't want Frayj, they don't want village league head Mustafa Dudin. They want the land without the people."

RAMALLAH COUNCIL REJECTS KHALAF'S REMOVAL

TA251719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The Ramallah Municipal Council convened this afternoon under the chairmanship of deposed Mayor Karim Khalaf and decided not to recognize the legality of the removal order. The Municipal Council has decided that Karim Khalaf is the mayor by law since the people elected him. The Municipal Council has also reiterated its refusal to cooperate with the Civilian Administration. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbrai reports that this means the Municipal Council will not agree to convene under the chairmanship of the Civilian Administration officer who was appointed today in place of Karim Khalaf.

RAMALLAH DISTRICT MAYORS CONDEMN DISMISSALS

TA251551 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The mayors of the small municipal councils in the Ramallah District convened in the (Dayr Diwan) municipality today and formulated a sharp announcement condemning the dismissal of Bassam ash-Shak'ah and Kharim Khalaf. They said the dismissals are prohibited according to international law and that they pave the way toward the establishment of self-administration. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that the mayors of (Dayr Diwan), Bi'r Zayt, Silwad, Baytuniya and (Bani Zayt) participated in the meeting.

RAMALLAH, NABULUS REPORTED TENSE AFTER DISMISSALS

TA251850 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Nabulus and Ramallah are quiet but tense this evening with large army forces and half-tracks patroling the towns. This follows the dismissal of the mayors of Ramallah and Nabulus this morning. They were called into Central Command headquarters and told by the commander, Gen Ori Or, that because the government considered them to be behind the disturbances in the territories, and to be members of hostile organizations they were unfit to serve as mayors. Karim Khalaf of Ramallah and Bassam ash-Shak'ah of Nabulus refused to sign the military orders and maintained that they are still mayors. The councils of the two towns met this afternoon and decided not to cooperate with the Israelis who have been appointed to head the municipalities. Tne Nabulus council and dozens of Ash-Shak'ah's supporters were summoned to Military Government headquarters and warned not to inflame the atmosphere.

NAZARETH MAYOR CRITICIZES DISMISSAL OF MAYORS

TA251744 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The dismissal of the Nabulus and Ramallah mayors have aroused ferment among local Arab authorities in Israel. Nazareth mayor, MK Tawfiq Zayyad from Rakah, condemned the military authorities' decision and in a special announcement he says that these mayors were elected by the residents and that they represent their people's wish.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that this is the first time that the Nazareth mayor has released a special announcement pertaining to the situation in the territories. The national committee of Arab local authorities sent telegrams to the prime minister and defense minister in which it expresses concern about the events and calls for the cancellation of the current measures.

W. BANK MAYORS APPARENTLY WILL NOT RESIGN

TA260719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] After consultations held last night by mayors in the territories, it appears they will not submit their resignations. This is also the official position advocated by the PLO. Contacts are continuing. Our correspondent has learned that the Military Government has warned municipal workers in Ramallah and Nabulus that absence from work constitutes an infraction of the law.

The Nabulus Municipal Council stated that it regards Bassam ash-Shak'ah as the mayor notwithstanding his dismissal. Following a meeting yesterday evening, the Nabulus Municipal Council issued an announcement stating that it will continue to boycott the Civilian Administration and adding that the dismissal was illegal and constituted an act of oppression. The Ramallah Municipal Council issued a similar announcement regarding its dismissed mayor, Karim Khalaf.

The Gaza Municipal Council convenes today in a special session to discuss events in the territories. Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwah last night said that for the time being neither he nor his colleagues on the council intended to resign. Ash-Shawwah stated that the dismissal of the mayors of Nabulus, Ramallah and Al-Birah is a natural continuation of the Israelis avowed policy to get rid of anyone daring to express an opinion, as he phrased it.

LOCAL DIGNITARIES TO ADMINISTER W. BANK TOWNS

TA261035 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1021 GMT 26 Mar 82

[News Bulletin]

[Text] The administration in Nabulus, Ramallah and Al-Birah will be transferred from the hands of Civilian Administration officials to local dignitaries. This was stated today by the head of the Civilian Administration, Prof Menahem Milson, in a news conference with foreign correspondents in Israel. Professor Milson refused to elaborate when the transfer would occur and under what conditions. However, he emphasized that this would not be through new elections. He added that in April 1976, the PLO had prevented the holding of democratic elections. According to Milson, the terrorist organization had exerted heavy pressure on the inhabitants and had not allowed its opponents to submit their candidacy. He emphasized that for its part Israel did not interfere in the elections proceedings. Professor Milson said Israel would declare the holding of new elections when it becomes possible. Our correspondent 'Arab Nir reported Milson's remarks in the news conference which ended a few minutes ago.

Further Details

TA261245 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] The head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, Professor Milson, declared this morning that local notables will shortly be appointed mayors of Nabulus, Ramallah and Al-Birah. Professor Milson was speaking to reporters in Jerusalem.

[Begin Milson recording] There is no question that there will be people from these towns who will take over.

I will not state here the date and the timetable and you can clearly understand why. Now, I am not speaking about elections; right now I am not speaking about elections -- that is a political decisions that will be taken in due course by the government. I am speaking about the local people who will take over. There is no question that this will happen but a timetable will not be, of course, declared here.

In the 1976 elections which were held here the PLO managed to intimidate or frighten these elections; the PLO managed to intimidate candidates who were not in line with the PLO to withdraw their candidacy. These were not democratic elections, these were elections held under terrorism, intimidation, bribery. They were held when the smoke of the burning fires and the stones and the burning cars of those who were not in line with the PLO were still in the air. They were organized by the authorities, to be sure, in a democratic way; that is, the Israeli authorities did not stop any candidate or any vote from getting to the ballot box but the PLO did not allow these elections to be held in a democratic way. Fear and intimidation prevailed and under these circumstances the PLO backers and supporters came to power and since then used those positions of power to pressure the population into their line. Now, three of these mayors were removed from office. That is a step toward allowing people who are not bent on the destruction of Israel but who are willing to negotiate with Israel to come to the fore. [end recording]

SHAMIR SAYS PLO IS BEHIND CURRENT UNREST

TA251839 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said the PLO is behind the disturbances in the territories and planned them in detail. He told a visiting group from the U.S. National Defense College that the PLO's aim was to prevent any progress in the autonomy talks, any reconciliation between Israel and the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of the administered territories, or any possible solution to the Middle East conflict. Such a solution would be a tragedy for the PLO, Foreign Minister Shamir said, because it would take away its sole reason for existing. The mayors of Nabumus, Al-Birah and Ramallah were PLO supporters and received their instructions from the PLO, Shamir said, adding that the Palestinian Arabs have a long tradition of a moderate majority dominated by an extremist minority. The foreign minister voiced confidence that the disturbances would soon end.

PLO SAID DIVIDED OVER REACTION TO BEGIN MOVES

TA251323 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned from Arab sources that a dispute has developed within the PLO between Fatah and the Popular Front as to how to react to Israel's removal of the pro-PLO mayors. The Fatah organization demands that the mayors remain in their posts to keep this asset, as the Fatah members put it. In contrast, the members of George Habash's Popular Front demand that all municipalities resign. The PLO's Executive Committee convened in Beirut today to discuss the dismissal of Bassam ash-Shak'ah and Karim Khalaf and these differences of opinion probably emerged in this session.

JORDAN-PLO SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSEES UPRISING

TA260604 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] The joint Jordanian-PLO committee has appointed a subcommittee to oversee what it calls the uprising in the territories. This body will also raise funds in the Arab countries to maintain the momentum of unrest Jordan has increased its broadcasts inciting inhabitants of the territories.

THIRTY PEOPLE DETAINED IN EAST JERUSALEM

TA251540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Thirty people were detained in east Jerusalem today, some of whom are charged with disturbances and others with not having opened their shops in accordance with the order issued by the commander of the Central Command. There were two incidents of stoning this afternoon: Stones were twice hurled at vehicles in the At-Tur neighborhood on the Mount of Olives. A bus was damaged. Stones were also thrown at a car travelling in 'Azarya.

GAZA STRIP DISTURBANCES CONTINUE 25 MAR

TA251740 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The disturbances in the Gaza Strip continued today, although on a smaller scale. A partial commercial strike was stage in Gaza. Unknown people hoisted a Palestinian flag in Khan Yunus and the flag was removed a short while later. The curfew declared in Rafah yesterday continued today but the residents continued to hurl stones at security personnel. Several people were picked up for interrogation.

JUSTICE MINISTER DEFENDS WEST BANK POLICY

TA251619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Justice Minister Moshe Nisim said that Israel's recent moves in the territories come against the background of proven reports that the PLO and its supporters intend to initiate activities to sabotage the Camp David agreements to prevent the establishment of autonomy. These Israeli measures were meticulously examined and it was found that they are in accordance with international law. He defined the Alignment's reaction to the government's measures in the territories as hypocrisy and false piety, saying that during the Alignment's rule harsh measures were taken to establish order in the territories and, among other things, tanks were sent to Nabulus.

EAST JERUSALEM PAPERS BANNED IN TERRITORIES

TA260913 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] The Military Government today banned the distribution of east Jerusalem papers in the territories. Barriers were erected at the exits from Jerusalem to Judaea and Samaria and the distributors were not allowed to proceed. Our correspondent, Pinhas 'Inbari, reports that this is the second time that the Military Government has banned the distribution of the papers since the dismissal of the Al-Birah Municipal Council.

ARAB STUDENTS STRIKE TO PROTEST W. BANK POLICY

TA261038 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] High schools in Nazareth went on a strike today to protest events in the territories. Our correspondent, Yo'el Dar, reports that this is the first time the Israeli Arab students have staged a strike in the wake of incidents in the territories. The students issued a statement saying that they intend to adopt further measures if the government persists in its policy.

JERUSALEM REINFORCED BY HUNDREDS OF POLICE

TA261139 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] No disturbances were reported in Judaea and Samaria towns this morning but tension still prevails there. Our correspondent Eli'ezer Peney-Gil has learned that most shops opened in Nabulus this morning. The IDF's Zelda armored personnel carriers continue to patrol the town.

In contrast, two disturbances were reported inside Israel's borders. A train making its way from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem encountered a stone roadblock near the village of Batir but passed through without difficulty. A private car was stoned in Shu'afat and its windshield was smashed. The driver was slightly wounded, fired shots in the air and drove away. Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports that Jerusalem police were reinforced today by hundreds of police from the Southern District, the national police school and the border police to prevent disturbances.

'LESS THAN A BRIGADE' DEPLOYED IN W. BANK

TA260704 Jerusalem POST in English 26 Mar 82 p 3

[Text] The disturbances in the West Bank and Gaza have caused some curtailment of IDF training programmes but have not affected its deployment along the borders, a General Headquarters source told the Jerusalem POST yesterday. The source would not say how many soldiers were deployed in the West Bank but said it was "less than a brigade." Soldiers on reserve duty account for many of the troops stationed in Judaea and Samaria, the source continued. They have been called expressly to police the area and their numbers are the same as six months ago, he said.

Since the disturbances began, those units have been augmented by regular troops whose training programmes were shortened, the POST was told. Each unit gets detailed briefings on what it may -- or may not -- do. The overall goal is to assure that shops are open, medical services operate, roadblocks are removed, and stone throwing stopped. "Those aren't just small stones like the ones King David used for his slingshot," an aide to Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon commented yesterday.

LEWIS EXPRESSES U.S. CONCERN OVER WEST BANK

TA251224 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Mar 82 p 2

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis yesterday informed the prime minister about U.S. reservations about Israel's behavior in the occupied territories and about the U.S. administration's concern over the dispute on the demarcation of the Israeli-Egyptian border.

In a special meeting between Begin and Lewis, the U.S. ambassador presented the position of his government as was also reflected in public statements in Washington condemning the use of lethal [qaltaniyim] measures in the occupied territories. Lewis presented the U.S. position regarding the demarcation of the border between Israel and Egypt and called for Israel's withdrawal in accordance with the schedule, at least to a line acceptable by both sides.

It has also been learned that the ambassador also made some remarks about the blockade imposed on the Druze in the Golan Heights.

An authoritative source last night noted that, contrary to recent reports, Ambassador Lewis will continue in his post in Israel. He does not intend to retire and the Washington administration does not plan to replace him, the source added. The prime minister replied to the ambassador that the criticism leveled at Israel for its handling of the ferment among the Golan Druze and the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza indicates hypocrisy. He recounted the massacres of the civilian population perpetrated by the Syrian regime and asked rhetorically why does the world tolerate such a phenomenon. The situation in Lebanon and recent contacts between Israel and Egypt through Usamah al-Baz were also raised in the meeting.

U.S. BITTER ABOUT SITUATION IN TERRITORIES

TA260609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] The bitterness expressed by senior Washington officials in private talks regarding the situation in the territories is sharper than their reactions in public. Our Washington correspondent Shalom Qital reports that, according to U.S. officials, Israel does not heed U.S. appeals to calm down the situation. The officials claim that Israel assumes too great a risk when it tries to set up a front of village leagues to counter the PLO and equip them with weapons even though the leagues are unacceptable to the inhabitants of the territories. Ambassador Arens will leave Washington next week for Israel to hold consultations. The foreign minister asked the ambassador to come to Jerusalem to discuss Israeli-U.S. relations. During his visit, several assignments to the Israeli Embassy in Washington will be decided.

JERUSALEM ARABIC VIEWS JORDANIAN ROLE IN W. BANK

JN252125 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 25 Mar 82

[From "With the Events"]

[Text] Here is a report on the latest events in Judaea and Samaria by our Middle East affairs editor Sha'ul Minashe: The dismissal of the Nabulus, Al-Birah and Ramallah mayors is closely linked to incidents which took place 2 weeks or so ago. The Jordanian Government has cleverly carried out a premeditated plan to weaken the influence of the terrorist organizations in Judaea and Samaria and to strengthen Jordan's influence in these areas.

The Jordanian Government's plan was carried out in two stages. The first stage was represented by Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran's statement in which he threatened the inhabitants of these areas with execution if they cooperated with or joined the village leagues. By this measure, the Jordanian Government wanted to make the terrorist organizations and the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria realize that it is Jordan and not the terrorist organizations which has the final say. This is contrary to the Rabat summit which gave the terrorist organizations the right to represent the Palestinians instead of Jordan.

The second phase of the Jordanian plan was instigating proterrorist organization mayors to adopt extremist stands against the Israeli authorities and the Civilian Administration in the hope that the authorities would be compelled to dismiss these mayors and thus Jordan would have a free hand in the areas.

The Israeli authorities did not dismiss the three mayors to serve Jordanian interests. The development and implications of events have made it necessary to dismiss the three mayors. The Israeli authorities carried out the dismissal after the three mayors resorted to provocation and instigation against the Civilian Administration and after they refused to cooperate with this administration. No respectible government could have tolerated this.

The dismissed mayors were not satisfied with provocation and instigation. They used all kinds of pressure to also make other mayors resort to provocation and instigation. Finally, foreign observers in the capital, Jerusalem, are of the opinion that the Israeli measures do not conflict with international law and the Geneva conventions. They also fall within the powers of the government.

ITIM REPORTS MORE ON TERRORIST SQUAD CAPTURE

TA241555 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1550 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Hanita, 24 Mar -- Three terrorists, aged around 20, were captured this morning by IDF units north of Kubbutz Hanita while attempting to penetrate into Israeli territory. The ITIM correspondent reports they approached Israel from the Christian enclave under Major Haddad's control and were spotted by an IDF patrol. As soon as they were spotted, additional forces were summoned and a pursuit began. They were captured following a brief battle inside southern Lebanon north of Hanita. Our forces suffered no casualties. The terrorists were found in possession of Kalashnikov rifles, pouches and food.

The ITIM correspondent reports that the three terrorists were found around 0800 and were captured a short while after they were first discovered. This is also the reason why no emergency situation was declared in the northern settlements. No one in Kibbutz Hanita knew about the brief battle that was held not far from their kibbutz. They only learned that the terrorists were captured from a noontime newscast report. It should be noted that recently the terrorists in this area have violated the cease-fire several times and not long ago they also directed fire at a navy missile boat on patrol along the Lebanese coast.

Undetected by UNIFIL

TA241810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The terrorist squad which was captured this morning after it infiltrated across the Lebanese border consisted of three men, our military correspondent reports. The force which detected the squad pursued them and captured them inside Lebanon, north of Hanita. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht was told by UNIFIL that they know nothing of the squad's passage through the area under their control. As far as they are concerned, the area is quiet.

Sources 'Cautious'

TA251201 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by political correspondent]

[Text] Government sources in Jerusalem last night were cautious and restrained in assessing the significance of the terrorist incursion from Lebanon into Israel. The sources said the capture of the terrorist squad was being examined to check whether the intention had been to penetrate into Israel, to attempt a provocation to ignite a flareup on the border or if it had been a patrol for intelligence purposes. As far as is known, the terrorist squad was captured near the security fence in the north.

Circles close to the prime minister last night pointed out that whatever the outcome of the probe may be, the terrorists would not dictate to Israel the nature of its reaction to their actions and its timing; Israel would adopt the measures it deems fit in its struggle against the PLO.

The HA'ARETZ correspondent notes that an attempted terrorist operation from Lebanon is a most sensitive question in relations between Israel, Lebanon, Egypt and the United States. Israel has been claiming for months that the PLO violates the cease-fire agreement reached on the northern border by strengthening and entrenching its force and by conducting acts of sabotage and firing both at Israel and at Haddad's forces. The United States has been urging Israel not to react seriously to attempted terrorist attacks which did not originate precisely in Lebanon or that proved unsuccessful. Israel has made plain that it regards any act of sabotage perpetrated against its citizens as a violation of the cease-fire agreement.

Yesterday's operation may be regarded as unambiguously representing a violation of the cease-fire agreement because it originated in Lebanon and was apparently targeted at Israeli territory. In the past there were reports about Israeli plans to attack terrorist concentrations in Lebanon. Therefore, the reaction of government officials last night to the terrorist incursion was surprisingly moderate.

IDF SOLDIERS OCCUPY VACANT YAMIT HOMES 24 MAR

TA242021 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Soldiers this evening entered all empty homes in Yamit as well as some air-raid shelters and a school where a party was underway. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that armed soldiers apparently want to prevent opponents of the withdrawal from seizing vacant apartments. The permanent settlers in Yamit are furious because in their opinion this contradicts a promise made by the commander of the Southern Command that soldiers would not enter the town at night.

YAMIT INHABITANTS FORCEFULLY EVICTING SOLDIERS

TA242115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] A few minutes ago, Yamit inhabitants began forcefully evicting IDF soldiers from apartments they seized in neighborhood A in the town. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that inhabitants were equipped with clubs, helmets and shields. Earlier, inhabitants blocked the entrance to Yamit with dozens of cars. Our correspondent reports that IDF soldiers this evening entered all the empty apartments in neighborhood A. It was later reported that this had been done to prevent members of the Movement To Stop the Sinai Withdrawal from seizing these apartments.

Soldiers Evacuated

TA250616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Most IDF soldiers were evacuated from Yamit at dawn today and inhabitants have opened the town gates. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that during the night representatives of the town's inhabitants met with senior officers. It was agreed that only a few soldiers would remain without weapons to guard the empty hours. There is only one platoon in Yamit now.

Sharon Tours Yamit

TA251336 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon visited Yamit a short while ago. Our correspondent Shalom Oren noted that the minister did not meet with the residents, but paid a lightning visit to the town and heard explanations from the commander of the Southern Command, Maj Gen Hayim Erez.

Earlier, General Erez said that the soldiers will remain in Yamit, occupy the vacant houses and prevent the members of the Movement To Stop the Sinai Withdrawal from entering them. In his visit to Yamit Minister Sharon conferred with the commanders of the force that had been attacked by the residents.

SHARON ORDERS IDF TO RESEIZE YAMIT HOUSES

TA251534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon today instructed the IDF to seize all houses vacated by soldiers after they were attacked by Yamit residents yesterday. The defense minister also instructed soldiers to carry their personal arms and to prevent by force any attempt to harm them. The Defense Ministry's spokesman says that Minister Sharon takes a very grave view of what he called rowdy acts in Yamit and the fact that soldiers and their commanders did not resist these acts. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the defense minister instructed that all rioters be immediately detained and that legal proceedings be initiated against them at once.

YAMIT RESIDENTS DETAINED; TOWN GATE BLOCKED

TA251625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Police have picked up some of the Yamit residents who participated in the attack on IDF soldiers, evicting them from the town yesterday. The residents in question are Yamit businessmen. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that residents have again blocked the town's gate, placing cars around the town, blowing their horns and not allowing vehicles to enter the town.

IDF Breaks Through

TA251813 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] IDF soldiers and policemen broke open the Yamit gates about an hour ago following their closure by members of the Movement To Stop the Sinai Withdrawal. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that the commander of the Southern Command headed the force, which was aided by tractors. When they entered Yamit soldiers and police began detaining withdrawal opponents, who put up passive resistance. The soldiers also tore down the fences around the town. In the afternoon police detained five Yamit residents on suspicion of having attacked IDF soldiers yesterday. Many soldiers are currently filling Yamit, positioning themselves in empty houses.

DRUZE HOLDING ID CARDS UNDER SOCIAL BOYCOTT

TA231752 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Golan Druze notables have been threatening to impose a social boycott on their brethren who have recently obtained Israeli identity cards. This was disclosed this afternoon to our correspondent Menahem Horowitz by Druze who descended from the Golan Heights to the Galilee panhandle settlements. This afternoon, the leader of the Israeli Druze sect, Shaykh Amin Tarif, met with Golan clergymen in an attempt to again persuade them to end the strike. Here is a report by our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz:

[Begin recording] The head of the Israeli Druze sect, Shaykh Amin Tarif, accompanied by a group of Druze leaders from the Galilee and the Karmel Mountain, reached the IDF roadblock near Mas'adah. The delegation proceeded to the (Ya'furi) tombstone near (Birkat Ram), where a group of Golan notables and clergymen awaited them. The Golan delegation was headed by Shaykh (Salman Tahir) of Majdal Shams.

One of the Galilee Druze notables said he does not believe the two parties could reach any sort of agreement [haskema] that could lead to the end of the strike. Meanwhile it has been learned that contrary to earlier promises made by Golan notables, in the last few days a social boycott has been imposed on those Druze who had obtained an Israeli identity card. [end recording]

DRUZE LEADER MEETS GOLAN HEIGHTS COUNTERPART

TA231655 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The spiritual leader of the Israeli Druze, Shaykh Amin at-Tarif, met today with the spiritual leader of the Golan Druze, Shaykh Salman at-Tahir. The meeting was held in the village of Majdal Shams, and was not attended by other Druze notables. The representatives of three Druze villages in the Golan Heights who were to have taken part in the meeting boycotted it because they were told they must receive permits from the army in order to attend it.

Talks Fail

TA240607 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The talks between the leaders of the Israeli Druze and the representatives of the Golan Druze have failed. The director of the Druze department in the Religious Affairs Ministry reported that no new date has been set for another meeting. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar was told that the Golan Druze have rejected the proposal to receive Israeli identity cards and the strike continues. There was a large rally in the village of Daliyat al-Karmel last night expressing solidarity with the Golan Druze. The participants in the rally demanded that the blockade on the Druze villages in the Golan be lifted.

DRUZE ACCUSE GOVERNMENT OF STEPPING UP BOYCOTT

TA241131 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The Druze in the Golan Heights issued a manifesto in Hebrew today accusing the government of increasing the economic and social boycott. The document claims 18 punishments are being used against them. The Druze say they will not surrender, they will not accept the imposition of Israeli law and they will not give up their Arab-Syrian nationality even if they are forced to pay a high price.

CLOSURE OF GOLAN DRUZE VILLAGES TO END IN APRIL

TA251641 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The closure of the Golan Druze villages will be lifted at the beginning of next month. The Defense Ministry's spokesman said security measures on the Golan are intended to prevent serious harm to the pro-Israeli Golan Druze and the turning of the Golan Druze villages into an arena of activity for PLO supporters in Judaea and Samaria. The spokesman made it clear there is no intention to compel the Golan Druze to receive Israeli citizenship and to enlist them in the IDF.

At the beginning of next month the military authorities' identity cards will also be canceled and replaced by Israeli identity cards. The government does not intend to force the Druze to accept Israeli identity cards but those who do not carry them will be unable to move freely or do anything which requires the use of identity cards, as laid down in Israeli law.

MOROCCO

SIERRA LEONE PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON WORKING VISIT

LD251746 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Rabat, 25 Mar (MAP) -- President Siakia Stevens of Sierra Leone arrived in Rabat today on a working visit to Morocco.

He said on arrival that during his visit he will hold talks with King Hassan II on a number of important issues, particularly those connected with the OAU.

After visiting Morocco, Stevens will visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Saudi Arabia, which he will visit following an official invitation.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI URGES AL-QADHDHAFI EXPULSION FROM LEAGUE

PM251203 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 20 Mar 82 p 1

[Report on interview with President Ja'far Numayri in Khartoum -- date not given]

[Text] Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, in an interview with 'UKAZ, has called on Arab and Islamic nations and Africa to settle their accounts with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who wants to impose his tutelage on all Arab, Islamic and African states because he dreams of becoming leader of the region. Al-Qadhdhafi, he said, has used various methods to fulfill this objective, including:

1. Hatching plots against stable Arab regimes by sponsoring, financing and training agents to use them for subversion and pressure on the regimes and thus prepare the ground for his schemes.

2. Sowing discord among brothers by encouraging polarization in the region to the advantage of the Soviet Union and by intensifying the campaign against states that do not have an do not want to have relations of any kind with the Soviets.

3. Misleading the Arab people by portraying the Libyan Government of despotism and chaos as the ideal government. If you ask Libyans before anyone else about what is happening in Libya, their answer would bring tears to your eyes and make you feel ashamed.

4. Using terrorism continuously as a means to that end, resorting to sabotage, hijacking and blackmail and dealing with the Red Brigades, the international terrorist Carlos and others with the aim of promoting and implementing his plans in the Arab homeland and elsewhere.

President Numayri noted that the Libyan leader's interference in other states' affairs is now a well-known phenomenon. Examples can be found in what is happening in Ireland, the Philippines, Namibia, Chad, the Western Sahara and other places.

President Numayri pointed out that Libyan prisons are full of thousands of detainees opposed to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's policies. These people, he said, are jailed without trial. Furthermore, President Numayri said, Libyan security organs are trying to contain Arab youth everywhere and to exploit and use them to serve certain well-known objectives.

President Numayri added: All states and nations would appreciate Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's expulsion from the Arab League, the OAU and the Islamic Conference because he not only poses a threat to but also plots against these states and nations from within and because he pursues aggressive policies and acts as an agent for certain powers who realize that they cannot penetrate our countries unless they are served by people from within.

President Numayri also spoke to 'UKAZ about Sudan's experience with Al-Qadhdhafi. He said: We have incriminating information and documents that will nullify any justification for al-Qadhdhafi's continued membership in these organizations.

Memorandum Prepared

JN251519 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Mar (SUNA) -- The Sudanese Foreign Ministry has begun preparation of an additional memorandum to be presented to the Arab League. The memorandum will concern Libyan excesses and terrorist activities practiced by Al-Qadhdhafi against Sudan in particular and the Arab nation in general. The memorandum aims at the adoption of a united Arab stand against these Libyan excesses.

In a press statement to SUNA, Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak said Libya is directly behind the fragmentation and division that has plagued the Arab nation at this dangerous crossroad and during this crucial historical stage when the solidarity of the Arab nation is needed most.

Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak said Sudan can definitely prove that Libya, with its repeated practices, has violated the Arab League charter and the joint defense agreement. He added that this violation is exemplified by Libya's military aid to Iran in the war against fraternal Iraq. Therefore, Sudan can only consider Libya as a hostile front against the Arab nation and its aspirations.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR CAIRO WITH MESSAGE

JN261030 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Mar (SUNA) -- Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak left here today morning for Cairo on a two-day visit to deliver a message from President Numayri to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations.

ASSEMBLY ISSUES STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN

JN221537 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Mar (SUNA) -- The People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee issued a statement today on Afghanistan Day, in which it praised the struggle the Muslim Afghan mujahidin are waging against the Soviet presence, which in reality is an occupation despite the Kremlin's claims that Afghanistan is being interfered with by other powers.

The statement said these claims are simply a political maneuver to divert the world's attention from the killing, dispersion, starvation and expulsion of the sons of the Afghan people at the hands of the Soviet forces.

The statement added that the Soviets are trying to impose their full control over all Afghanistan and that the Muslim people there are waging an unequal struggle against the Soviet forces which do not hesitate to bombard villages and kill their inhabitants with all kinds of weapons, including poisonous chemical weapons banned internationally. This has led 1/5 of the citizens of Afghanistan to take refuge outside the borders of their homeland.

The statement said the danger posed by the Soviet presence in Afghanistan stems from the fact that, on the one hand, this presence is communist domination over a Muslim nation committed to its creed and a rock against which all the invaders' attempts will flounder, and on the other, this Soviet presence in view of its proximity to the strategic Arab region, which has rich oil resources, is a great threat to the region and prepares the atmosphere for the big powers' struggle in this region because their interests are vitally linked to this region's resources.

The statement called for an immediate Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan to enable the Afghan people to determine the type of regime which suits them, without foreign pressures or interference. The statement also urged the parliaments of neighboring countries to extend help to our people in Afghanistan.

The People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee praised Pakistan's support for the Afghan mujahidin struggle and appealed to Islamic parliaments to increase their countries' material and moral support to the mujahidin because their struggle is primarily for God's cause.

The statement said 21 March 1982 will remain a landmark glorifying the heroic struggle of the Afghan people for liberation from foreign intervention and for safeguarding the state of Islam.

GABON

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT'S VISIT

AB251100 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] At the end of the SFRY head of state's visit to our country, a final communique was issued in Libreville this morning. According to this communique, both parties examined with particular attention the prospects of cooperation between Gabon and Yugoslavia, which show that the fruitful development of this cooperation is an important factor in all relations between the two countries.

After expressing satisfaction with the quality of the very important relations engendered by this cooperation, the Yugoslav and Gabonese parties expressed their desire to develop and diversify them even further. The bonds of cooperation between Belgrade and Libreville are in the fields of civil engineering, transportation, forestry and oil prospecting. In addition, both parties noted the possibility of extending this cooperation to agriculture, geology, energy and other fields.

Apart from bilateral relations, the two heads of state also examined with concern the continuing deterioration of the world situation. Yugoslavia and Gabon, both members of the Nonaligned Movement, emphasized the importance of this vast movement in the search for solutions to major world problems as well as the importance of the forthcoming nonaligned summit.

Concerning the crisis in the Middle East, the two countries energetically condemned Israel's pursuit of aggressive acts against the Arab countries. In this regard, they called on the international community to maintain and increase its pressure on all parties concerned so that the Middle East, Southeast and Southwest Asia and Central America will cease to be zones of tension and become effectively areas of peace and, above all, so that southern Africa may -- on the basis of the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement and the OAU -- definitively free itself from arbitrary rule. According to the two delegations, this heavy responsibility now lies with the superpowers.

Finally, it should be noted that, on behalf of his country, the Yugoslav head of state invited President Omar Bongo to visit Yugoslavia. The date of this visit will be fixed later.

ZAIRE

GENERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH SUDAN

AB231810 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1537 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Kinshasa, 23 Mar (AZAP) -- At the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Zaire and Sudan on Tuesday signed agreements on general cooperation, trade and customs. The agreements were signed at the closing session of the first meeting of the Zaire-Sudan joint commission held in the Zairian capital from 20 to 23 March.

Citizen Lengema Dulia, secretary of state for international cooperation and head of the Zairian delegation, signed on behalf of his government while Bashir Ibrahim Ishaq, Sudanese minister of state for finance and economic planning and head of his delegation, signed on behalf of his government.

During the deliberations, the two delegations examined several issues of common interest and expressed satisfaction over their identity of views on all issues examined on the regional, continental and international fronts. They also examined bilateral cooperation and were satisfied with the progress achieved since the last experts' meeting in Khartoum on 15 and 16 March 1980.

The two delegations reaffirmed their determination to strengthen their cooperation in the economic, cultural, technical and social spheres.

Also, to facilitate payments in their trade links, the two countries agreed to examine at a later date the possibility of arrangements [words indistinct] as well as agreements concerning their consular services, air transport, legal matters, arts and culture. They also agreed to step up the fight against fraud, illegal trade and poaching.

The second session of the grand joint commission will be held in Khartoum in 1983.

Sudanese Minister's Comments

AB231807 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1545 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Kinshasa, 23 Mar (AZAP) -- The visit by the Sudanese delegation to Zaire, within the framework of the first session of the great joint commission, is an important step toward the consolidation and strengthening of friendly and fraternal relations between Kinshasa and Khartoum. This was stated on Tuesday by the Sudanese minister of state for finance and planning, Bashir Ibrahim Ishaq, at the closing ceremony of the meeting.

The Kinshasa meeting, he went on, gave both Sudanese and Zairian experts the opportunity to examine ways and means to coordinate initiatives by the two countries for development and progress.

The Sudanese official stated that throughout the meeting there was a clear identity of views on the bilateral and regional issues discussed. He expressed his gratitude of the executive council for the successful organization of the Kinshasa meeting and for the generous hospitality accorded him and his delegation. He also expressed the hope that the agreements signed in Kinshasa will be rapidly and effectively implemented. Sudan, he assured, is committed to leaving no stone unturned to ensure implementation, particularly on the occasion of the visit by the secretary of state for international cooperation to Sudan -- a date has not yet been fixed -- at the invitation of the Khartoum government.

In turn, citizen Lengema Dulia expressed satisfaction over the happy conclusion of the Kinshasa meeting which enabled the Sudanese and Zairian delegates to deepen their discussions on matters of common interest. He said the job of the experts was made easier with the instructions of the historic Gbadolite declaration which was issued at the end of the Obote-Numayri-Mobutu summit.

The agreements signed on Tuesday in Kinshasa, the secretary of state for cooperation said, constitute the legal framework which will guide all activities covered within the relations of cooperation between the two countries.

The Khartoum meeting in 1983 will be, for Zaire and Sudan, an opportunity to review the effective implementation of the agreements signed in Kinshasa, he concluded.

Delegation's Departure

AB231634 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1533 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Kinshasa, 23 Mar (AZAP) -- Bashir Ibrahim Ishaq, Sudanese minister of state for finance, and his delegation left Kinshasa on Tuesday for Khartoum via Nairobi.

The Sudanese statesman, who led his country's delegation to the deliberations of the first session of the Zaire-Sudan great joint commission held in Kinshasa from 20 to 23 March, had talks with Zairian officials.

AZAP ON BENEFITS GAINED FROM MILITARY SERVICE

AB251358 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0835 GMT 25 Mar 82

[AZAP commentary: "Sound Mind in Sound Body"]

[Text] The absence of a common code of conduct for students in our universities and institutions of higher learning is often the cause of agitations which sometimes appear on the campuses and disturb normal student life.

During its fourth ordinary session which ended on Tuesday, the MPR Central Committee analyzed and determined the nature of the evils affecting the student world. This analysis appeared in the state decision concerning higher education and universities, as far as student training in discipline and civic education are concerned.

Henceforth, each Zairian student in universities and institutions of higher learning is requested to undergo military service for 1 year on the very premises of his establishment, while at the same time pursuing his studies. This is therapy which, once administered, will make the student a full citizen.

The army, it is said, is life's school. It is known for its iron discipline. The Central Committee expects, by its state decision -- the experience of the 1971 militia has proven it -- that conscience will be added to knowledge in the interest of the student, the leader of tomorrow, for knowledge without conscience only destroys the soul. The army being the best place for discipline, the young draftee sharpens his conscience and strengthens his body through his submission to directives and general instructions of respect for authority.

The student should not consider this military service a punishment but a possibility for forging his character, and be conscious of his responsibilities within the society. And that will even help him integrate himself into society and serve it, thanks to the experience of submission and devotion which his military life will enable him to acquire.

MOBUTU RECEIVES NEW PRC AMBASSADOR 23 MAR

AB231245 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The new Chinese ambassador to Zaire, Li Shanyi, this morning presented his credentials to citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the MPR and president, at his Mont Ngaliama residence.

Li Shanyi is a career diplomat born in 1921 in the Shandong Province. Before coming to Zaire, he served in Havana, Cuba.

In the visitor's book at Mont Ngaliama, the Chinese diplomat wrote these beautiful words: "The current year will mark the 10th anniversary of the normalization of relations between China and Zaire. The Sino-Zairian tree, planted and nursed personally by President Mobutu Sese Seko and the late President Mao Zedong and the late Chinese Prime Minister Chou Enlai, has already borne fruits. On this happy occasion, my appointment to your great country as ambassador has taken on greater dimensions. I am determined to faithfully accomplish the mission my government will entrust to me and work with all my might, however modest it might be, to the continued development of friendly relations of cooperation between the two countries. I wish the Republic of Zaire prosperity and hope that the friendship between our two peoples will remain as evergreen and everlasting as the virgin forest of Zaire."

GHANA

NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY FOR MORE LIBYAN OIL

AB251840 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Negotiations are going on to lift a further 100,000 metric tons of crude oil from Libya by the end of this month. Disclosing this to a Ghana Broadcasting Corporation correspondent in Accra today, an official of the petrol division of the Ministry of Fuel and Power said the terms of payment are being worked out. He said it is expected that the two consignments, totaling 66,000 metric tons which have already been discharged, will last for about 3 weeks. The exact period will depend on the actual rate of fuel consumption. The two consignments worth $20 million were a gift from the people of Libya to Ghana. It was an expression of their practical support for the 31 December revolution.

PNDC DIRECTS INSTITUTIONS TO SET UP FISH FARMS

AB242052 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council has directed that with immediate effect all institutions in the country should set up fish farms. In a statement issued in Accra today, the council explained that the directive forms part of the government's food production program for the country. It added that the institutions which require technical advice on the construction of such fish farms should contact the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture.

DAMUAH DESCRIBES 'HOLY WAR,' ASKS SACRIFICES

AB220702 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] A member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC]. Rev Dr Damuah, has emphasized that the holy war is against injustices, selfishness and bribery and corruption within the society. Members of the council are therefore prepared to scarifice their lives for the success of the revolution.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Ashanti region branch of the positive Christian movement in Kumasi yesterday, he asked Christians to support the holy war because he said God's hands are in it. Reverend Damuah observed that Ghana has the capacity to be first in agriculture, education and other fields in Africa, and not only in football. He called for the Africanization of worshipping in churches, describing some of the churches in Ghana as too conservative. He appealed to spiritual churches to use their funds to establish farms, build hospitals and schools and offer scholarships to the sons and daughters of their poor members.

On the recent banning of the spiritual churches in Ashanti, the Reverend Dr Damuah announced that everyone is now free to worship at any church. He asked the people of Kumasi to forget about the recent events in the city and support the revolution.

The national coordinator of the movement, Apostle Banabas, announced that there will be no more conventions by individual churches. There will only be one convention this year for all churches. At this convention, an appeal will be launched to raise funds for agricultural projects, schools and hospitals.

An officer of the people's army asked the members to expose those still indulging in kalabule. He regretted that trade malpractices still continued in Kumasi and warned that anybody caught will not be spared.

LIBERIA

DOE REINSTITUTES EXECUTIVE WARRANT SYSTEM

AB251647 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The chairman of the People's Redemption Council and head of state, Commander in Chief Samuel K. Doe, has reinstituted the executive warrant system effective immediately.

The head of state noted that the (?measure) was necessary to control government expenditure and put a limit on corruption. The system provides for the Liberian leader to approve all payments by government in excess of $1,000. The system was in force until 1979 when the late president stopped signing warrants charging that the process delayed implementation of several projects. The head of state noted however that the suspension of this system provided loopholes for corruption and overpayment in government. The minister of finance has accordingly been directed to implement the system effective 1 April 1982.

NIGERIA

CENTRAL BANK SUSPENDS OPENING OF CREDIT LETTERS

AB251602 Lagos NAN in English 1525 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Lagos, 25 Mar (NAN) -- The Central Bank of Nigeria [CBN] announced in Lagos yesterday that it had temporarily suspended the opening of letters of credit and the registration of forms, with effect from the close of business on Tuesday.

In a release, the CBN said that the exercise was to enable the monetary authorities to assess the extent of commitments by the country with regard to imports. It said that commercial and merchant banks had been given seven days within which to provide the CBN with details of outstanding letters of credit opened with them, including classification by type of merchandise. The CBN added, however, that all documentary credits and other commitments will continue to be honoured in the usual way.

COMMITTEE TO STUDY SHORT TERM FISCAL MEASURES

AB251607 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] President Shehu Shagari has set up an implementation committee to consider some short term measures aimed at rescuitating the nation's economy. This was contained in a letter from the secretary to the Federal Government, Alhaji Shehu Musa, which was read to members of the House of Representatives today by Speaker Edwin Ome-Ezeoke. Alhaji Shehu Musa had in a letter requested the house to mandate some committees to hold talks with the presidential committee. Meanwhile, the house has directed its finance, commerce and appropriations committees to meet the presidential committee next Wednesday.

YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT VISITS CROSS RIVER STATE

AB260904 Lagos NAN in English 0830 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Calabar, 25 Mar (NAN) -- The governor of Cross River, Dr Clement Isong, said in Calabar today that the peace of the world was paramount to world progress.

He said that developing nations could only concentrate on the fullest exploitation of their resources for progress and drawing from the "enlightened combinations of developed countries," if there was universal balanced peace.

At a luncheon in honor of the visiting president of Yugoslavia, Sergej Kraigher, Dr Isong said that Yugoslavia had made tremendous contributions towards the process of helping nations to realize their full potentials. He commended the effort of the late president, Marshall Tito, in mobilizing the developing countries and nonaligned nations and hoped that President Kraigher would advance Tito's mission.

Governor Isong said that the manpower and financial investments of friendly nations were needed to enable his state to tap effectively its natural resources.

Responding, President Kraigher said that peace was a precondition for the survival of humanity. He said that his country had linked the destiny of its program to the destiny of the nonaligned world. He commended the role Nigeria plays in finding solutions to the problems of some developing countries.

Earlier, President Kraigher had been met on arrival at Calabar airport by the governor, his deputy Dr Mathias Offoboche and other top government functionaries in the state. He was accompanied by the minister of external affairs, Professor Ishaya Audu, the Nigerian ambassador to Yugoslavia, J.D.O. Sokoya, and some of his delegates from Yugoslavia. The guard of honor was mounted by a detachment of the Nigerian Army.

Later, the president visited the Calabar ports where the ports manager, O.F. Akpan, said that since the commissioning of the port in 1979, about one million tonnes of cargo had been handled.

Shagari-Kraigher Talks Resume

AB252135 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Talks resumed in Lagos this evening between the visiting president of Yugoslavia, Sergej Kraigher, and President Shehu Shagari.

The discussions took place shortly after the Yugoslav leader returned to Lagos from a brief visit to the Cross River State.

NIGERIA-YUGOSLAVIA COMMISSION MEETING OPENS

AB251616 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The fifth session of the Nigeria-Yugoslavia joint commission opened in Lagos today. The meeting is a followup to a similar one held in Belgrade last year, during which both countries brought into focus a number of issues of common interest.

In an opening address, the minister of national planning, Chief Mrs Ebun Adenike Oyagbola, who led the Nigerian delegation recalled areas in which both countries agreed upon at the previous session.

These include the adoption of concrete measures to facilitate, promote and improve the quality and effectiveness of economic cooperation on the basis of collective self-reliance. Both countries also agreed to enlarge and diversify the items of trade, initiate improvements in postal traffic as well as discussions on possibilities for long term financial and banking arrangements.

Mrs Oyagbola called for the participation of Yugoslavia in the implementation of current development plans of the country which contained a wide range of projects for profitable investments.

Replying, the head of the Yugoslav team, Mr Vuko Dragasevic, expressed that relations between Nigeria and his country would not be on trade alone but should be reflected in political and other areas.

SENEGAL

EGYPT'S GHALI ARRIVES FOR TALKS 25 MAR

NC251720 Cairo MENA in English 1656 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Dakar, 25 Mar (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali arrived here this afternoon from Conakry after a two-day visit to Guinea.

Upon his arrival, Dr Ghali said that his visit to Guinea had been successful. He added that Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure had handed him a message for President Mubarak expressing support for the Egyptian president's policies and offered constructive proposals on African conciliation activities, supporting African peace efforts and maintaining for the Nonaligned Movement its vitality.

Ghali indicated that the African Continent would witness during the next weeks a series of diplomatic summit-level moves with the object of restoring cohesion to the Organization of African Unity. The Middle East peace process, he said, would also enjoy an increased African contribution to promote Egypt's peace efforts for the establishment of a just and permanent peace in the Middle East.

Thiam Meeting

NC251822 Cairo MENA in English 1755 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Dakar, 25 Mar (MENA) -- Premier Habib Thiam conferred today with visiting Egyptian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali for almost one hour. They exchanged views on the current problem facing unity, the latest Mideast developments, Third World issues and boosting the Nonaligned Movement.

Dr Ghali later said that Premier Thiam expressed satisfaction with Egypt's peace efforts, adding that the viewpoints of Egypt and Senegal as regards the OAU's present crisis were identical. Both countries saw the need for stopping those attempts designed to disrupt and disintegrate the organisation, and for maintaining the unity of the continent.

The Thiam-Ghali meeting was attended by the Senegalese foreign minister and the Egyptian ambassador in Dakar.

LESOTHO

PARAMILITARY OFFICER CONFIRMS ATTACK ON BASE

LD252136 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Commander of the Lesotho paramilitary force, Major General (J. Lakanya), has confirmed the paramilitary force base was attacked last night. He said that his forces quickly repulsed the attack, which he claimed came from the South African side of the border. This is the third attack in Lesotho this month.

MOZAMBIQUE

OPPOSITION CLAIMS 13 SHIPS SUNK IN BEIRA

AB251238 Paris AFP in English 1127 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Lisbon, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Guerrillas of the underground Mozambique National Resistance (MNRM) sank 13 trawlers in the port of Beira, northern Mozambique, on Sunday, a representative of the movement said here today.

In a telephoned message to the AFP bureau here, a MNRM spokesman said that 10 of the boats were sabotaged at the quayside and the others at their moorings.

Meanwhile, Mozambique's minister of security, Major General Veloso, described the movement as "a few former fighters of the Frelimo nationalist movement supported by the South African Special Services." General Veloso, speaking at the end of a one-week visit to Portugal, said the MNRM was recruiting among people living in parts of the country where there were "administrative failures."

Sources Deny 'Allegation'

AB251800 Paris AFP in English 1725 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Maputo, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Mozambican sources today implicitly denied an allegation by the anti-government National Resistance Movement (MNRM) that it had sunk 13 trawlers in the port of Beira.

According to the owners of the boats, the Mozambican Emopesca Company, only six had been lost, and while radio Mozambique did not rule out sabotage, Emopesca blamed bad weather and the negligence of the trawler crews. Emopesca said that three trawlers had sunk off Nampula Province, north of Beira, which has been hit by cyclone Justine, and a fourth went adrift. Two had sunk last Sunday at the quayside in Beria shortly after being repaired.

SOUTH AFRICA

MALAN: CALL UP SYSTEM TO BE REVISED IN 5 YEARS

LD260044 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] The South African defense minister, Gen Magnus Malan, says the proposed new, more extensive military call up system for the country is to be revised after 5 years. Moving the second reading of the defense amendment bill in the House of Assembly in Cape Town, General Malan said the new system had been planned on the basis of an operational projection after an information evaluation of the escalation of the threat against the country during the next 5 years. He expressed the hope that after 5 years the situation would have changed to such an extent that the national service burden could be lightened rather than worsened.

The minister said it remained the aim of the South African defense force to establish a larger full-time force. He denied that the bill was originally intended to include a ballot system for Colored and Asian men and white women. The defense force had asked that such a system not be introduced yet as it did not have the manpower to deal with it. The defense amendment bill, which provides for military service for all white men between the ages of 17 and 60, will be referred to a select committee after its second reading in the South African parliament.

No Draft for Coloreds

LD260048 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] At a meeting of the ruling National Party in Pretoria tonight, the South African prime minister, Mr Pietre Botha, said at this stage there could be no compulsory military service for Coloreds as they have no political rights at present. Mr Botha said his idea was not to place the Colored people on a common voters' roll, but he called for support for his government in its search for structures and solutions in which the Coloreds would not feel deprived of their birthrights in their home country.

ZIMBABWE

POLICE FIND ARMS CACHE; SHOOTING INCIDENT CITED

LD251826 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Excerpt] It is reported from Bulawayo that police have discovered another arms cache in the Filabusi area, about 100 km southeast of the city. The discovery comes shortly after the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, made a statement at a rally that more arms caches are likely to be found. A police spokesman said the arms and ammunition included large quantities of antipersonnel mines, rocket launchers, RPG-7 boosters, rocket mortar bombs, antiaircraft guns, rifles, stick grenades and machine guns.

Meanwhile, police say they have issued an order restricting the movement of motor vehicles between Balla Balla crossroads and Gwanda from sunset to sunrise with effect from today. A spokesman said the order was issued following the shooting incident last night in which two people were killed.

BRIEFS

NEW TRANSPORT MINISTER -- The new minister of transport, Comrade Farai Masango, was sworn in by President Banana at State House today. Earlier in the day, the minister had toured the railway installations in Salisbury, after which he spoke to the ZBC. Comrade Masango told the ZBC that plans are underway to advance blacks in the national railways of Zimbabwe and Air Zimbabwe to senior positions. He said his ministry will be coordinating with the Ministry of Manpower Planning and Development in order to provide jobs to unemployed black engineers. [Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 18 Mar 82 CA]

ANTHRAX OUTBREAK -- The Umtali City Council has increased the number of checks on meat sold in the city in the wake of an outbreak of a disease called anthrax. Two people suffering from the disease have already been treated at a Sakubwe hospital the chief hygiene officer in the area, Mr Eric Foxton, said the people only had anthrax lesions and not lung or stomach infection. Meanwhile, two people are to face prosecution in connection with the illegal sale of meat. [Text] [Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Mar 82 CA]